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1 YUKON-KUSKOKWIM DELTA FEDERAL
2 SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETING
3 VOLUME II
4 October 13, 1999
5 Bingo Hall
6 Quinhagak, Alaska

7 MEMBERS PRESENT:

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9 Mr. Harry O. Wilde, Sr., Chairman
10 Mr. Robert Nick, Co-Chair
11 Mr. Fritz L. George, Secretary
12 Mrs. Mary Gregory
13 Mr. Willard Church
14 Mr. James Charles
15 Mr. Billy McCann
16 Mr. Johnny B. Thompson
17 Mr. Lester Wilde
18 Mr. John Hanson, Sr.,
19 Mr. Phillip Moses
20 Mr. Alvin Oweltuck, Sr., Alternate Yukon Member
21 Mr. Thadius Tikiun, Alternate Kuskokwim Member
22
23 Mr. John Andrew, Coordinator

P R O C E E D I N G S

(On record)

CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: (In Yup'ik) Glad you could join us now, since our break last night. I've just been advised this morning that Luke Amik will say benediction, that open prayer -- the opening of the meeting.

MR. AMIK: (In Yup'ik)

CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Quyana. This morning. (In Yup'ik) Taylor Brelsford, you're in the hot seat this morning.

MR. BRELSFORD: Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman, and good morning to all of us. We're in a cozy little location today, so it might be a little easier to hear everybody. I want to talk for a minute about coordination between several councils.

MR. L. WILDE: Excuse me, Taylor, there are -- I notice there are some of our elders over there that need translators and don't have them. Could you make sure that everybody that needs translators has them?

MR. BRELSFORD: Thank you.

(Off record)

(On record)

MR. BRELSFORD: I think we're ready to start again. The question then is how could the three regional councils on the Yukon River work together, and similarly how can the two regional councils on the Kuskokwim River work together so that we have comprehensive management of the whole river system, not broken up into bits.

Two years ago we talked with the regional councils about their new responsibilities in fisheries management, and at that time the councils said that they were willing to take on the extra work, looking at fisheries, we shouldn't have separate councils that work on fish, and a separate council again for wildlife. One council should work on both parts of the subsistence issue.

On the Yukon River and the Kuskokwim River, we

1 still needed to figure out how those councils could work
2 together. On the Yukon River we have, moving from the
3 Canadian border down to the Bering Sea, the Eastern
4 Interior Regional Council, the Western Interior Regional
5 Council, and then the Yukon-Kuskokwim Regional Council. On
6 the Kuskokwim River you have your neighbors upstream are
7 the Western Interior Council and again the Yukon-Kuskokwim
8 Council in the lower portion of the Kuskokwim drainage.

9
10 Over the past several years councils have worked
11 together on specific issues. Members from the Kuskokwim
12 Council have gone up to visit with the Western Interior
13 Council, or south to work with the Bristol Bay Council.
14 This would be the case by case approach. When there's an
15 issue, then you travel to work directly with the next
16 council.

17
18 But that might not be enough for fisheries
19 management, because every year we will need to work
20 together between those councils. So another idea would be
21 to have a coordinating council made up of two members from
22 Eastern Interior, two members from Western Interior, two
23 members from Y-K, and they would work together to make the
24 same recommendation, to coordinate recommendations so that
25 when the Board, Federal Subsistence Board is making a
26 decision, they have consistent recommendation from the
27 Regional Councils, not differences. So the -- that idea
28 would be kind of a coordinating group between the three
29 councils.

30
31 And then the third idea was raised by the Yukon
32 River Drainage Fishermen's Association, YRDFA, and their
33 idea was to make a brand new council on the Yukon River.
34 They called it the 11th council, and this one would only
35 work on fish, and only on the Yukon River. They're saying
36 it's a special case, it's a special circumstance on the
37 Yukon River, and we need one over-all council that could
38 work with unified recommendations.

39
40 So those are the three choices, case by case,
41 coordinating group, or separate 11th council on the Yukon
42 River. And a little bit later in the agenda we'll maybe
43 have more of a chance for the Yukon-Kuskokwim Council to
44 talk about that and even make a recommendation if you want
45 to. We're gathering information from each of the councils
46 right now, and then we will report back to you in February
47 in the winter meetings and ask for your final vote, your
48 decision on what would be the best approach in February.
49 Right now we're just kind of getting started on this
50 question. In February we will need a final decision from

1 each council.

2 So let me stop here on the idea of working together
3 between these councils on the big rivers, and see if you
4 guys have any comments or any questions about that?

5
6 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman?

7
8 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: James?

9
10 MR. CHARLES: Taylor, you know, I've
11 used.....

12
13 COURT REPORTER: Excuse me, James, could
14 you grab the mike a little closer, please? Thank you.

15
16 MR. CHARLES: I've used Fish and Game
17 Advisory (indiscernible, feedback) is what they call --
18 I've been with Fish and Game Advisory before, because I've
19 been with the Fish and Game Advisory Committee for a long
20 time, and on some overlapping issues that we had on
21 proposals, on some proposals, we've had joint meetings with
22 the Yukon and Kuskokwim or upriver advisory committee, so
23 when there's overlapping proposals on subsistence fishing
24 here, too, maybe it would be a good idea to have joint
25 meeting once in a while with upriver Regional Advisory
26 Council or Yukon Advisory Council, too. We've had some
27 meetings, and work out better that way for me, and
28 understand their problems and we tell them what problems we
29 have, too, for down river and that has helped solve some
30 problems, not all of the time, but sometimes. Thank you.

31
32 MR. BRELSFORD: And so a good idea based on
33 experience would be joint meetings between the councils?

34
35 MR. CHARLES: Yeah.

36
37 MR. BRELSFORD: Okay.

38
39 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, I think the
40 stance that the Yukon Drainage Fisherman's Association took
41 at the time of one of their meetings, was that not
42 necessarily them becoming a 13th or whatever number
43 advisory council, but to be involved in the fisheries end
44 of the Yukon since they're being represented from the
45 Canadian border all the way down to the mouth, and that's
46 -- they didn't -- we didn't really come up with an idea of
47 how we were going to be involved I don't think, but we --
48 they felt that to some degree that they should be involved
49 since they've been in the fisheries end of the Yukon for a
50 number of years.

1 MR. BRELSFORD: You're quite right, and
2 it's an important clarification. YRDFA was not suggesting
3 that the YRDFA Board would be that 11th council. They were
4 just emphasizing the importance of unified.....

5
6 MR. L. WILDE: Being involved.

7
8 MR. BRELSFORD:management, and way
9 for YRDFA to be specifically involved. We're actually
10 talking with the director from YRDFA about a memorandum of
11 agreement that would recognize the role, on-going role of
12 YRDFA in the fisheries program, so it would be formalized
13 in an agreement.

14
15 MR. L. WILDE: Well, as it is YRDFA is
16 pretty well represented on this council, because all of us
17 I think from the Yukon belong to YRDFA.

18
19 MR. BRELSFORD: Okay. I believe we can
20 move on then to the next question. This is the topic of
21 extraterritorial jurisdiction, and it's a big word that
22 means if the Federal Government would reach off of the
23 federal waters out into state-managed waters to regulate in
24 order to protect subsistence on the federal waters. So
25 this is the question that has come up with controversy
26 about intercept fisheries or about Area M, and some people
27 in these public meetings have said, we want the Federal
28 Government to go out and regulate Area M, and other groups
29 have said we don't want the Federal Government reaching out
30 like that. So this question is a little bit technical.
31 I'll try and make it as easy as I could.

32
33 One paper that we sent around this morning is
34 actually the draft procedures for a petition for
35 extraterritorial jurisdiction. In the way of background,
36 since 1995 when the first federal regulations, draft
37 regulations were published, there's a section that
38 recognizes that the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture
39 already have authority, they have the legal power, to reach
40 off of federal lands under extreme circumstances. It's not
41 a simple matter, and all the other solutions have to be
42 tried and only if nothing else would work could the Federal
43 Government reach off into the state waters. We recognize
44 that the management of migratory species like salmon may
45 require changes in management downstream below federal
46 waters or offshore before the fish enter the federal
47 waters. This authority rests only with the Secretaries of
48 Interior and Agriculture. It has not been delegated to the
49 Federal Subsistence Board, so the final decisions would be
50 made at the national level, not by the Federal Board on its

1 own.

2

3 What we have here are draft procedures that say how
4 a community that sees a crisis, a problem, how they could
5 ask for federal regulation offshore or in an intercept
6 fishery. It outlines the steps, so to speak. These
7 procedures are in the draft form. They're being reviewed
8 in Washington now, and by the winter meetings in February
9 we should have the final version. We want to make that
10 information available to the public so that people would
11 understand the proced -- understand the steps.

12

13 I wanted to say that this is a power that is very,
14 very rarely used by the Federal Government. The states and
15 the Federal Government always argue about who's in charge,
16 and so extraterritorial authority has been used less than
17 half a dozen times in the 20th century, all the way back to
18 the early part of this -- of the 1900s. It's very rare.
19 It's an extreme measure, and they can only do it if the
20 other steps have been tried and couldn't work.

21

22 This process would not be the regular annual chain
23 of proposals for changes in regulations. It's going to be
24 handled as a special request at any time of the year. And
25 a petition for extension of federal jurisdiction will also
26 involve thorough consultation with the State of Alaska, and
27 perhaps with other federal managers like the National
28 Marine Fisheries Service, the offshore federal managers.
29 In addition, the scientific basis for this petition will be
30 -- has to be very strong. It can't be done on one guy
31 says, another guy says. It has to have a strong fact
32 basis.

33

34 So to finish on this, when the steps, the
35 procedures are finalized, we will talk again with you in
36 the winter meeting on a more -- to go through the more
37 concrete steps of extraterritorial jurisdiction. So let me
38 stop here and see if there are a few questions and comments
39 on this question?

40

41 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: John?

42

43 MR. HANSON: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chairman.
44 Yeah, Taylor, talking about federal jurisdiction, the state
45 only has three miles out, that's the state jurisdiction.
46 Anything from three -- beyond three miles is federal, so --
47 and I think a lot of the board members here know on that.
48 For -- to carry out the subsistence take for the Kuskokwim,
49 Yukon, Norton Sound -- Norton Sound, we would have to with
50 the consent of the regional councils, I think the federal

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1 -- need to consent from them, to go beyond the three miles
2 if it has to be done, with the consent of the regional
3 councils. Otherwise, we'll get the regional councils for
4 trying to protect subsistence and there will be no more
5 fish going into the rivers to spawn. I think we have to
6 look at it in a broad situation to where we'll have --
7 we'll be protecting subsistence to the salmon stocks.
8 Otherwise if the salmon stock don't come back and rebound,
9 then we'll just be protecting for white fish and shee fish
10 and pike.

11

12 MR. BRELSFORD: Well, your idea is correct
13 that we would -- we want to do this with the direct
14 involvement of the regional councils as well. You guys --
15 it is possible for a regional council to make a petition to
16 reach off of the federal waters. Some of the fisheries
17 organizations, and some of the tribal organizations have
18 already talked about petitions to look again at Area M, for
19 example, and like you're saying, we have to have direct
20 involvement from the regional councils in any decisions to
21 review the scientific basis, and to look at alternative
22 management changes.

23

24 Your final point that conservation of the fish runs
25 may require changes all the way out to the offshore
26 fisheries is I think a good one. And as you say those are
27 managed under -- directly under federal auspices now, so it
28 would be possible to petition for changes by the -- this
29 would be the Department of Commerce that oversees the
30 National Marine Fisheries Service.

31

32 Again, I want to emphasize that the fact basis has
33 to be strong, and that we would try everything else first
34 before taking the extreme measure of an extraterritorial
35 petition. Again, only the Secretaries can do this. The
36 fact-finding and the consultation would occur in Alaska
37 with the Department of Fish and Game and the Federal
38 Subsistence Board, the regional councils, the advisory
39 committees, and other fisheries groups. But your basic
40 idea that we need to include the councils, and we need to
41 look at the whole picture, those -- that's exactly right.

42

43 MR. HANSON: Yeah. The federal biologists
44 I think need to look at the whole, not just the Yukon or
45 the Kuskokwim or the Norton Sound. They need to take a
46 look at all the migration routes. The state did that, but
47 they never gave to the Board of Fish on all of the
48 information. They had the information, but they kept it
49 secret. This one here, if the federal biologists go out
50 and look at all the migration routes, because the Cook

1 Inlet, their -- the fall chums and cohos, that's the one
2 the state kept secret, come from the Pacific Ocean, they
3 come around. Cohos and fall chums get slaughtered by
4 Kodiak fishermen. They have to look at that one, too.
5 Those fish that come to Kuskokwim, Yukon, north Norton
6 Sound, they come behind Kodiak to Shelikof Straits, and
7 that's the one that I'm really interested in. The cohos
8 and fall chums come into the Yukon. Well, if they get
9 slaughtered in Kodiak, behind -- or in Shelikof Straits,
10 then those fisheries -- fish -- fishermen have to be pushed
11 back into their own base.

12
13 Now, take for Area M. They don't have to be
14 totally cut off. They've got their own little streams.
15 They can come in from inside the three-mile into their base
16 instead of closing the whole thing. And that would keep
17 away from the salmon that's going into Kuskokwim, the
18 Yukon, the Norton Sound, north Norton Sound. So with that,
19 I think the federal biologists, the National Marine
20 Fisheries, and the advisory groups can work together and
21 solve that problem, and everybody will be fishing, but
22 they'll be fishing inside their own base instead of going
23 out and slaughtering the whole -- almost a whole salmon
24 run.

25
26 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Fritz George?

27
28 MR. GEORGE: Yeah. Quyana, Mr. Chairman.
29 Taylor, you know, in the past like a couple of times
30 subsistence fishing in the Kuskokwim was closed based on
31 not enough salmon going through our fish camps. Then at
32 the same time sport fishing continued 24 hours a day, seven
33 days a week. And do you think the closures are emergencies
34 enough to say that the agencies can close sports fishing
35 altogether until the health of the salmon returns to its
36 normal level?

37
38 MR. BRELSFORD: That was my fault. Fritz,
39 I'm not really in a position to predict the final decisions
40 on a question of that sort. I think it would have to be a
41 case-by-case analysis based on the run strength and all of
42 the allocation claims. Our job is to protect the
43 subsistence uses in the federal waters. That's what you're
44 going to help us get right. There may be some bumps in the
45 road, some strains and some controversies in years when
46 some stocks are down low, but I don't want to make it over-
47 simple by saying, oh, sure, we would close that one or this
48 one. I think we need to keep in mind our basic principles
49 of conservation and of protecting the subsistence
50 allocation, and then have careful decisions on each case,

1 each specific situation that comes before us.

2

3 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Robert Nick?

4

5 MR. NICK: Thank you, Harry. Taylor, I
6 wanted to comment on this extraterritorial jurisdiction.
7 We all know that -- why we are here today and are talking
8 about the issues that we've talked about since yesterday,
9 and that is because Title VIII of ANILCA, the subsistence
10 priority for rural Alaska. And for years we've heard talk
11 of intercept fisheries and Area M by-catch, the quota
12 system for pollack where revenues are shared with the
13 coastal villages, and we heard Senator Murkowski assert to
14 the Secretary that he was -- he is going to be watching how
15 the Secretary of Interior is addressing the beyond the
16 territorial, you know, boundaries of the -- you know, the
17 state, and that is the outside waters beyond the three
18 miles, so I think every opportunity for us to make some
19 sort of a regulation on the catch of the fisheries offshore
20 is right here with us today. And I think it is incumbent
21 upon the Fish and Wildlife staff to pursue, you know, and
22 recognize this task as a priority, because Senator
23 Murkowski and then Senator Stevens, you know, stand by
24 their position on subsistence priority, and if they --
25 they're not -- you know, they're not going to be there
26 forever, so I think we need to pursue this.

27

28 The other issues that you talked about this
29 morning, the regional councils, you know, we can always
30 work together. We have always worked together in the past,
31 and then we have no other bond that can make us work
32 together than our subsistence foods, so I'm not worried
33 about, you know, conflicts down the road, because we can
34 iron them out. But there -- it's the resource that I'm
35 worried about, you know, the -- I have heard people state
36 to me that the by-catch of chum salmon, in one sweep of the
37 seiner of pollack that they put the chums, the silvers, the
38 kings aside and then sweep them overboard, and in one sweep
39 of the deck is the entire catch for the Kuskokwim. I've
40 heard those statements. So we need to set limits and maybe
41 controls, and then we have the opportunity, we have the --
42 you know, it states here that, you know, it rests on two
43 people, the Secretary of Interior and the Secretary of
44 Agriculture.

45

46 So I think this is one effort that can unify all of
47 the state ten regional councils, especially those on the
48 Yukon, and -- the three on the Yukon that you were talking
49 about, and the two on the Kuskokwim. There's no other
50 issue that can unify us than to control intercept fisheries

1 and the by-catch. So I think we need to -- this issue
2 paper number 6 should be addressed by the Fish and Wildlife
3 Service with extra effort. And then -- and provide us with
4 information that we can review and pursue on our part, too,
5 because this -- you know, you just told us that this is not
6 an authority that is given to the federal fisheries board,
7 but is being retained by the Secretaries. And I can
8 understand why, because of the controversy, you know, and
9 the issue, you know, because we're talking about outside
10 waters. So I think this is a priority. So I would push to
11 have all efforts made to address.

12

13 And then the other idea I have is the quota system
14 for pollack. Why not have a similar system for salmon, you
15 know? For every salmon that they catch, you know, in Area
16 M, have them give to the distressed fisheries, you know, in
17 the Yukon and the Kuskokwim, in the same principal as the,
18 what do you call it, the quota system for pollack.

19

20 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: CDQ.

21

22 MR. NICK: CDQ. Have a CDQ for chum
23 salmon, red salmon, silver salmon and king salmon. I think
24 it's only fair for them to share what they reap with those
25 that they're steeling from. Thank you.

26

27 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Johnny Thompson?

28

29 MR. THOMPSON: Quyana for giving me a
30 chance to speak. Charles and Harry and I myself have been
31 board meetings many a times on fish, because Lower Yukon
32 itself voluntary closed themselves with the late chums when
33 it -- when the stock declined. And we ourselves, not only
34 to fish some animals like below 18 they voluntary monitor
35 that area for moose for five years. It worked. Now
36 towards fish, quite a while back they -- what they call
37 that, they take one strip of from the seiners, in
38 international waters, and the False Pass people were all
39 for it, because they themselves are suffering. These big
40 seiners from the lower states. Now I would suggest that
41 the only way is limit the length of the vessels or fish
42 boats. That's one way of reducing some fishers in
43 international waters. I think that would work out, instead
44 of talking about fish. If they shorten their vessels, that
45 that will give them a risk of weather. So we all know when
46 there's a big storm out there, we have a pretty good
47 return. So these things need to be, you know, considered.

48

49 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Thadius Tikiun.

50

1 MR. TIKIUN: Taylor, I've got a question on
2 the petitions. Could you read off, I'm sorry, is it
3 different entities that could make petitions, or, you know,
4 the fellow (ph).....

5
6 MR. BRELSFORD: Sure. The opportunity to
7 raise an issue and petition for a change would be very
8 similar to all of the proposals to change regulations, so
9 individuals could submit, a village could submit, a
10 regional tribal association could submit a proposal, any of
11 the fishermen's groups would be able to come together on a
12 proposal, and the regional councils themselves could submit
13 a proposal. So it's very wide open as far as raising an
14 issue for analysis. But the main thing I'm emphasizing is
15 that it's a difficult and a -- it would probably take two
16 years at least to move through the review and the
17 consideration all the way up to the Secretaries' level. So
18 it's open at the bottom, but it's going to take time, and
19 it's going to be very, very carefully reviewed before a
20 final decision.

21
22 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Willard Church.

23
24 COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry.

25
26 MR. CHURCH: I attended meeting one time
27 with a bunch of fisheries biologists from all over Alaska
28 and all over the world. They were talking about the
29 international fisheries, but also about national fisheries
30 like salmon here in Alaska. And there's this elderly white
31 man. White hair. He was a biologist for many years. He
32 said the key is not to go out and try to manage the
33 resource, but to go out and manage the people that use the
34 resource. So that's the key to good management, and I
35 think I would agree with him.

36
37 But what I wanted to ask about, if the territorial
38 jurisdiction relates to how it could apply to interior --
39 inland waterways, meaning tributaries, rivers, where you
40 have both federal jurisdiction and state jurisdiction,
41 similar to what Mr. George was asking about earlier. The
42 same procedure, if I'm not mistaken, as I read it, can be
43 used both for offshore fisheries and inland waterway
44 fisheries?

45
46 MR. BRELSFORD: That's exactly correct. It
47 would be possible, for example, for fishermen in the middle
48 or upper Yukon to argue that activities at the lower Yukon,
49 inland, fresh water river system. The Lower Yukon is in
50 the Yukon National Wildlife Refuge -- Yukon Delta National

1 Wildlife Refuge. Other groups upstream may argue for
2 changes as a result -- wait, it's the wrong example. Mid
3 river or upriver communities may argue about the state-
4 managed waters in the middle of the river, and that, too,
5 would be extraterritorial jurisdiction. Any time you would
6 reach off of the portion of the river that's in a federal
7 conservation unit to change regulations on state-managed
8 waters, that is extraterritorial jurisdiction.

9

10 MR. CHURCH: And the other question that I
11 have is how would this same procedure apply to
12 international waterways, or does it apply?

13

14 MR. BRELSFORD: Well, most folks know that
15 the United States national jurisdiction, the so-called EEZ,
16 extends to 200 miles offshore. And most of the discussions
17 that I've ever heard have been looking at the trawl fleets
18 or the intercept fisheries in near-shore waters. I have to
19 say I haven't really heard anybody asking about the donut
20 hole, or the international waters beyond 200 miles. My
21 understanding, Willard, from the class I took on
22 international relations is that the only mechanism there is
23 treaty making between national governments, so I am quite
24 sure that the Federal Government cannot reach into
25 international waters unilaterally. That has to be a
26 discussion in the international, bilateral negotiations.

27

28 Actually, you know, an example is the Yukon River
29 fish panel where the United States and Canada have the
30 beginnings of a treaty, or they are trying to renew a
31 treaty between the two governments, between the two
32 nations. That would be an example of international
33 fisheries management, and it's conducted by negotiations at
34 the international level.

35

36 MR. CHURCH: Yeah. Having read some
37 articles in the past on fisheries issues, I know based on
38 the articles that a lot of the interception has been taken
39 place by, you know, other countries fishing fleets. You
40 know, the bottom and midwater trawls, they do intercept a
41 lot of salmon destined for coastal waterways. You know, I
42 think that's an issue that should be looked into. I mean,
43 it doesn't just affect the salmon species, but affects a
44 lot of other species out there as well, because once you
45 start depleting the resources, it has a chain reaction in
46 the food chain, and it affects another species, and another
47 species, and other species, and eventually it starts
48 affecting us as human beings, because we are the consumers
49 of those same resources, you know. I think we need to look
50 at that as well.

1 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Robert Nick?

2

3 MR. NICK: Thank you, Harry. To speak a
4 little further on the issue of the international, the
5 offshore catch, one thing that I haven't heard, you know,
6 is talk about the increase in the Coast Guard budget, you
7 know, the manpower, you know, the Coast Guard fleets,
8 they're the ones that go out and intercept illegal fishing
9 within the territorial waters. And I'd like to, you know,
10 if it is proper, you know, make some kind of recommendation
11 or a motion, you know, to allow, you know, this regional
12 council, okay, to -- when the time comes, to make a push to
13 the Department -- the federal fish -- the Fish and Wildlife
14 staff to pursue this, you know, in all efforts, in all --
15 and to examine all avenues how we can control the by-catch,
16 because I think is -- like I said, this is -- at least that
17 will be agreed upon by everybody, you know, we can work
18 together. And the idea of a CDQ on salmon, you know, is a
19 viable idea I think.

20

21 And then I was talking to one person that was
22 working in a trawler in the donut hole, you know, in
23 between -- you know, past Eamak (ph) Pass, and he said in a
24 calm day when the river -- when the sea is calm, and then
25 the clouds are gone, it's like a city out there, all those
26 lights. Fishing boats, trawlers, fish -- that are out
27 there that are intercepting or catching the, you know,
28 salmon that is out there. So I think we need to -- when
29 the proper time, maybe make a recommendation or a motion
30 that we request the Department, because you now have
31 resource, you've already got \$1 million to increase your
32 staff, and I know you told us yesterday that you're going
33 to hire more biologists. And this is a priority issue for
34 me. So when the time comes, I'll make, you know, some
35 motion to address this. Quyana.

36

37 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Yeah, I think Council
38 will have an opportunity, the Regional Council will have an
39 opportunity end of this issue, reports. It says others,
40 Regional Council comments and recommendations. If we get
41 there, I think we should give our -- really our concern and
42 our recommendation. We could try to go ahead and try to
43 continue, cover these reports. Go to the next one,
44 customary trade.

45

46 MR. BRELSFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
47 This will address some of the concerns raised by Mr. Johnny
48 Thompson, Sr., yesterday. In Title VIII, the subsistence
49 definition includes customary trade as well as barter and
50 sharing. So in the law, it is part of the subsistence use

1 that we protect. In the regulations that came out in
2 January and then went into effect in October, customary
3 trade is defined as the exchange of subsistence taken fish
4 for small amounts of cash, so long as it does not
5 constitute a significant commercial enterprise. This is
6 different than the approach the State has taken in the
7 past. Our intention here is to accommodate the small local
8 customary trade practices within a village, between
9 neighboring villages, at a low level, not commercial
10 quantities, but low level, traditional level. But our
11 responsibility is to separate subsistence uses from
12 commercial sales, and in some regions where there have been
13 bad experiences with abuse, we think there might be a need
14 for more specific regulations to further define the
15 customary trade practices of a region, give good examples
16 of how people in this area have historically traded at this
17 local level. And we would need -- this would be -- in each
18 region come up with more specific information in order to
19 separate customary trade from commercial sales, and to
20 prevent abuses. Helen Armstrong, my -- John and I -- she's
21 our coworker in Anchorage, will be here after 10:00
22 o'clock, and she has a later agenda item asking for action
23 from the Regional Council. But at this point I just want
24 to kind of give the overview that we want to permit the
25 existing traditional practices, but prevent abuses, prevent
26 things that go way outside of what's right for the
27 subsistence level.

28
29 Since we're going to come back to that when Helen's
30 here, I'll just move right on to the next item. This one
31 is looking at training on fisheries management for the
32 regional councils.

33
34 As you can see from our conversations today,
35 fisheries management is going to be pretty complicated,
36 with a lot of federal and state jurisdictions, different
37 organizations, different agencies. Some folks in this
38 council have many, many years, many decades of experience,
39 but a lot of us still have a lot to learn. One of the
40 things we want to do is get all of the regional councils
41 together, about 100 members statewide, for a training and
42 orientation session. You got a letter in August talking
43 about a November date for that training and orientation
44 session, but at this point we've had to postpone that
45 session until January 2000. We were very concerned about
46 having all of the details final before bringing everybody
47 together, and in particular we're still working out the
48 details for in-season management, coordination with ADF&G.
49 We think that's going to be one of the questions fishermen
50 wonder about, and we need to have the details before we

1 hold the training session. So that's the main reason for
2 the postponement, to be sure that we're really ready to
3 give you the concrete information.

4

5 We also hope to have some of the new staff, some of
6 the major fisheries people on board by late January, and
7 this would be a chance for you guys to meet some of the new
8 people. You might already know them. I think we're going
9 to try and come up with people who have already worked in
10 Alaska fisheries, perhaps retired people who could come
11 back and bring a lot of expertise to this new federal
12 program. But this would be a chance for the councils to
13 meet the new fisheries staff.

14

15 We're looking at a time in the last part of
16 January, the last two weeks after Slovik (ph). And I guess
17 I'll stop there and see if there are any questions or
18 comments about the training session.

19

20 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: John Hanson?

21

22 MR. HANSON: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chairman.
23 Taylor, when you talk about customary trade, could you tell
24 me money-wise -- you mentioned that for customary trade,
25 you can trade say in a community or the next community.
26 Money-wise, how much -- what's the figure that you've come
27 up with?

28

29 MR. BRELSFORD: Mr. Hanson, this has been
30 an extremely controversial question, because different
31 parts of the state see this very differently. There is
32 actually a legal in Southeast Alaska where there were no
33 regulations in place. The court took a guess at what was
34 the difference between significant commercial enterprise
35 and traditional customary trade, and that dollar figure
36 might surprise you. It was \$14,000. In many parts of the
37 state, that's more than a lot of fishermen make when they
38 work the whole season, and it would be -- it would ruin the
39 limited entry program if everybody could go out and sell
40 that kind of volume. So we need to look at each region
41 separately.

42

43 I think we've -- I've heard discussions, but nobody
44 wants to get out ahead of the public on this one. A few
45 thousand dollars has been discussed as the appropriate
46 amount in the Western Alaska, AYK area, but I think we want
47 to move kind of slowly on that, and really get the input
48 from the councils. Like I was saying, later when Helen is
49 here, one of the main things is to get these important
50 examples of customary, of traditional practices so that we

1 know what we're talking about, what we're trying to protect
2 in a more specific way.

3

4 MR. HANSON: I know there's a lot of black
5 market in the subsistence, customary trade. But that black
6 market isn't down say -- on the lower part of Kuskokwim it
7 isn't. Kuskokwim, well, they don't have grosses (ph).
8 Now, take for the Yukon, that's where most of the black
9 market is. It's not on the lower part, from Holy Cross
10 down, it's on the upper part from Holy Cross on up. That's
11 where all the black market is. Using subsistence,
12 customary trade. And I think once the regional councils
13 get together, they would have -- that one has to be
14 discussed more, because it's -- a lot of what I've heard is
15 here, seeing, what I've heard is that black market is
16 pulling in 40, \$50,000 to a person, and it's -- if it's a
17 black market, I think that should be stopped rather than --
18 they're just taking advantage of the other people that
19 aren't doing that.

20

21 MR. BRELSFORD: I just have one or two
22 left, so maybe I'll hurry and then we'll take a break?

23

24 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: (Indiscernible) Robert
25 Nick.

26

27 MR. NICK: I wanted to comment on the
28 training, you know, of regional councils. I think, you
29 know, November -- mid November, even though it's kind of a
30 busy time for everybody, and everybody's hopping so our
31 training would have been kind of diversified, because, you
32 know, probably shopping would interfere. So I think
33 postponing to January, you know, is a good idea.

34

35 But as far as training, you know, I've been on this
36 advisory board for -- this is my second term -- second
37 year, and then I've attended two meetings. I was unable to
38 attend one in Alagnak due to a death in my family, but in
39 between the meetings you know, I could just as well be in
40 Siberia, you know, as far as, you know, keeping up, or
41 someone's telling me what's happening with the subsistence
42 issue, and the regional councils. So I think in our budget
43 yesterday you said that there was \$1 million that was given
44 to the Department for staff improvements and stuff, and
45 then \$6 million -- 60 percent for like studies, and then
46 for agreements, but there was no mention, you know, how
47 much would be, you know, given to the ten regions for, you
48 know, for training, because we're, like Willard said, you
49 know, that we are going to be looked upon by, you know, the
50 village people to make decisions for them for the resource,

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1 you know, sustenance, you know, for their -- how they can
2 hunt and fish, but also for maintaining the resource, so I
3 think we need to be trained more than once.

4

5 And then the communication should be two ways, you
6 know, the Department should communicate with every one of
7 our members here, and then there should be an avenue for us
8 to speak with you. So there needs to be more contact, and
9 more than -- I think, you know, more than four meetings a
10 year. You know, there needs to be maybe a subcommittee or
11 a subgroup that you can call upon for some guidance in
12 between the meetings. But this task we have here is very
13 is very important.

14

15 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: We're going to have ten
16 minutes break at this time. Thank you.

17

18 (Off record)

19

20 (On record)

21

22 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

23

24 INTERPRETER: Since our region -- our
25 progression, progress in this meeting is a little slow,
26 they're deciding to have an evening session tonight,
27 probably after church, around eight. Those that can
28 translate -- or those that can -- those who are bilingual
29 -- those that are able to speak in English or the common
30 time are encouraged to speak to speak in English. That's
31 -- the translator is a little lacking, behind.

32

33 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Go ahead. Go ahead,
34 Taylor.

35

36 MR. BRELSFORD: Let's see. Thank you, Mr.
37 Chairman. I think we're on the last item actually. The
38 flyer that came around to you this morning, it's salmon-
39 colored, and it talks about how to change federal fisheries
40 regulations. This would be the proposal process. I think
41 everybody knows that for the 2000 fishing season starting
42 in March, we already have regulations. Those are the ones
43 that came out in January, and they went into effect in
44 October 1st. So we wouldn't have proposals to change
45 regulations right now. But starting in January, we would
46 begin proposals for the year 2001.

47

48 So if you look at the flyer, you'll see it's real
49 simple. There's proposal period where you could submit
50 changes from January until March 24. Then during May

1 there's public comments on the proposals. We send out the
2 proposal booklet, just like we do now with wildlife, or
3 again just like the state Board of Fish does. In the
4 falltime next year, one year from now, you would have the
5 technical analysis by your -- by the staff to look over,
6 and the public comments to look at, and you would be making
7 recommendations, your formal recommendations to the Federal
8 Subsistence Board next fall. Then the Board will meet in
9 December of 2000 to make regulations, and those regulations
10 would go into effect the following spring, in March of
11 2001.

12
13 So this is very similar to the system we already
14 use. All the steps are familiar to you and I don't think
15 there's any -- that's a simple enough one. So that was the
16 last item on the fisheries overview for you. I'll quit and
17 see if there's any other questions or comments?

18
19 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: I think you do a good
20 job. There's no -- next on our agenda is B, action,
21 recommendation needed. Who's taking that?

22
23 MR. BRELSFORD: Mr. Chairman this would be
24 one of our coworkers, Helen Armstrong, who's supposed to
25 arrive pretty quick. I wonder if we could go on to another
26 agenda item, and then come back to these, the action items
27 at a later time? Or perhaps the open public comment
28 period?

29
30 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Yeah. (In Yup'ik)

31
32 INTERPRETER: Taylor stated that the next
33 item, she has not arrived yet. Make a comment on this.
34 He's just translating what you said, Taylor. Yeah, there
35 are a number of people that turned in their slips for
36 trying to make a comment.

37
38 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: John.

39
40 MR. THOMPSON: So in order to make a motion
41 to set the agend -- to set the items aside, to go into
42 another topic.

43
44 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Yeah, Johnny Thompson
45 made a motion. (In Yup'ik)

46
47 MR. HANSON: Second.

48
49 MR. ANDREW: John Hanson.

1 INTERPRETER: John Hanson second.

2

3 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Any further discussion
4 on the motion? (In Yup'ik) So we go along with the
5 staff's recommendation to address the public comments
6 segment. (In Yup'ik)

7

8 INTERPRETER: And then (indiscernible).
9 Public comments at this time.

10

11 MR. ANDREW: (In Yup'ik)

12

13 INTERPRETER: The elder is Luke Amik.

14

15 MR. ANDREW: (In Yup'ik)

16

17 MR. AMIK: I'm Luke Amik. I'm from Kipnuk.
18 (In Yup'ik)

19

20 INTERPRETER: And he's proceeding to
21 council (indiscernible). He does not know much in English,
22 and he cannot read or write. Sometimes he has an idea of
23 what presentments (ph) on papers are all about. There are
24 a lot of things I need to understand as well, and this is
25 the first time he has an opportunity to meet the council in
26 person, and (indiscernible) were along the line. Just
27 recently his fellow council member from his community
28 advised him in Kipnuk (indiscernible) what it was quite --
29 the council is all about.

30

31 Back in 1971 when the state first began and the
32 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service were fully recognized for
33 who they are, not even recognized around the area. So as
34 he had in that time, the people, the natives of the area
35 were sort of like -- have met a group of organizations that
36 was really contrary to the native way of life, and how the
37 -- were -- work the issues about in the region, how the
38 federal government and how the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
39 Service was going to practice or exercise their authority
40 in the region. And (indiscernible) these were established,
41 the people of the region were never asked if it would be
42 okay to do their work or programs in the region. This was
43 all done without having the native people anything about
44 what their programs was going to be all about. And this is
45 contrary for the native lifestyle in our region. Because I
46 know this, I am addressing it before you. It hurts. The
47 victim (ph) of someone coming into our region and doing
48 something contrary to the lifestyle of the people within
49 the region.

50

1 So our people have a strong will to hunt in this
2 community like any others. And at some times there was
3 some airplanes that were flying in their area where the
4 hunters were, so a group of people were shooting at the
5 aircraft, and that was in contrary to -- trying to protect
6 their way of life I guess is what's -- is so strong, that
7 they needed to protect it. So I know that happened, and
8 that's why I'm giving it to you. At the time, it was
9 almost like starting a war against the state's
10 representatives. Trying to protect their way of life.

11
12 At that time -- so the committee was formed at that
13 time that -- in the time that we're speaking of. It is
14 good that the committee was formed, and we have to seize
15 the fact as a person. You, the council members will have
16 to stand up for all of us. You know the native lifestyle.
17 You young people after me, you all know our -- some of you
18 young people don't know our traditional style, and he has
19 concurred with Moses, Phillip -- Phillip Moses.

20
21 He was born in the year 1927 -- or 20, and his
22 actual birthday is 1921. First year.

23
24 At this time is the first time he -- ever since
25 Japanese -- he used to think that he was a Japanese, a
26 left-over from World War II.

27
28 I look at you as a Council, you are here to answer
29 for and work for the natives of our region. You people
30 know the value of a native person. This is way of life.
31 He can be kind of encouraged by a bunch of papers that he
32 cannot possibly change his lifestyle.

33
34 Ever since he came to recog -- realize he has
35 written his history, his story from 1921 and '27, that he
36 was really -- in the year 1927 was when he came to realize
37 what it was like to be a native person, and how they were
38 able to subsist from the land and waters of the region.
39 Bow and arrows, harpoons were the only means of -- tools
40 that they had, and in the summertime the men didn't have
41 plans to work, and he himself had shared that lifestyle.
42 And there was sugar, flour, nothing like that was
43 available. He had thought the village or -- and the area
44 in which he lived was the only place that there was in the
45 world, so -- and he himself would like to see the council
46 to progress in a matter to help the people of the region.
47 And he's jotted down his story for all of you to peruse,
48 wanting you and begging of you, (indiscernible) your
49 lifestyle.
50

1 He has heard a lot of different stories when he
2 goes to the meetings. Some topics that he's heard, he
3 doesn't like. Some he likes. And when he goes home, it's
4 just like leaving the topic behind, so all these papers,
5 when you -- when they have -- when they're prepared to have
6 a meeting, they have all kinds of papers to look at and
7 follow, but the natives did not have that. And say a
8 little bit, not forever talking about one topic. So as an
9 elder he would like to see -- he has had someone jot down
10 what he knows.

11
12 The elders were the only ones that were given an
13 authority to give directions to the younger generation.
14 The younger generation cannot overpower an elder, or the
15 one that was born before him. The age was respected at the
16 time. Nowadays it is all way, way different from what it
17 used to be, because some younger ones know a lot about
18 paperworks and stuff. These papers that he had brought
19 along, the regulations in his own native way of life are
20 documented in this paper.

21
22 This morning here -- this morning you have a task
23 to do, addressing the subsistence. He has walked, and he
24 used eyes, vision, strength, he followed this subsistence
25 lifestyle. He lived it and he knows it, and he has jotted
26 it down. What he has not put down on this paper you do not
27 discuss. And he (indiscernible) from the staff members
28 have -- wouldn't have much to say unless they had a paper
29 that document what they have to say. So he himself is just
30 like that now. He came with a documentation of what he has
31 in his mind, and he would like to see you as a committee to
32 be able to address the native needs of the region in
33 subsistence way of life. Do not go beyond the rules and
34 regulations of what the native people need. And those of
35 you that are interested in this, they are written in
36 Eskimo.

37
38 There are a lot of things that they would like to
39 address, discuss with you, but he hasn't -- he -- the elder
40 (indiscernible), but maybe he create -- I create -- he
41 understands a little bit. He has a picture in there, but
42 it's kind of unclear. And when he has no translator, he
43 gets along pretty good. When he gets kind of made an
44 digresses, he get harder.

45
46 Here's another -- something that I need to give it
47 to you. Oh, what's -- Russia, one statement that made --
48 he doesn't -- he rarely shows this documentation to anyone,
49 but he's going to -- he has gotten it, and this was
50 established, this was -- documentation was done in 18- --

1 he said something. The army -- even though they make a
2 decision or something, Alaska's people were stated, don't
3 bother their lifestyle, and he understands this, Taylor,
4 that our lifestyle is going to be changed, if the year --
5 in the year 2000. He's the (indiscernible) subsistence
6 formation is going to change is going to change the whole
7 lifestyle of the region. How hard will it be to follow, or
8 will it be a lot easier than it has been in the past? Our
9 way of life needs not be changed, whether it be a man or a
10 woman, direction of lifestyle, that do not change. It's
11 the purpose of the native person to follow.

12
13 We do have a pipe (ph) with a no change. No man on
14 earth will change the Bible, the way it's written. God has
15 given you -- wants the Bible how it is presented. Even if
16 has lost (indiscernible) he can (indiscernible). When he
17 sees -- when he reads his Bible, there's a statement in
18 there that said the whole world, the whole universe is
19 going to be gone. A law, the things that are valuable will
20 be gone. Any person in the world can write down or jot
21 down how much the world will have in its possession, and
22 how smart anyone can be, and if it's all of that.

23
24 And the time he was recollect, there lots of birds,
25 seals, anything, there was a lot of game, and in his
26 lifetime all of the things that were in abundance were
27 gone, even the shore birds. A lot of them are gone. He
28 looks at the world like the sea gulls are the ones that
29 they don't hunt. Some birds that they don't hunt. As he
30 began to realize as he goes along, these birds, they don't
31 seem to increase, they don't see to diminish in number.
32 But the ones that are -- we're hunting and utilizing, are
33 the same as ever. See, sometimes in three years, there's
34 sort of like a lean year, and some years there's an
35 abundance. And he looks at -- look at the mice, how they
36 change, where do they go? We don't know. Where do these
37 mice go? The earth's animals is like that. Every three
38 years there is abundance, and in three years there's a lean
39 year. Lean years. And any person that is able to notice
40 things like that will know.

41
42 So that's the extent of my presentation. There may
43 be some important talk that I forgot. If you have a chance
44 to -- 1st John, Chapter 2 where he -- if you happen to have
45 occasion to know what is contained -- the contents of that
46 file, you have a (indiscernible).

47
48 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Robert?

49
50 MR. AMIK: (In Yup'ik)

1 MR. NICK: Yeah. (In Yup'ik)

2

3 MR. AMIK: (In Yup'ik)

4

5 MR. NICK: (In Yup'ik)

6

7 INTERPRETER: Luke, as he -- as we sat
8 before you, we all do have papers in front of us to follow,
9 a lot of things that we talk about, and his first comment
10 was that he would like to have a copy of those documents
11 for all of the board members here. When you return to your
12 home in the year 2000, unheated, there might be a
13 tremendous change in our lifestyle, but it would not be.

14

15 I'd like to be clear (indiscernible) with you. Our
16 subsistence lifestyle has been -- as referred (ph) the
17 Federal Subsistence Board and this group is the regional
18 council. Those of you -- all of you, your statements are
19 valuable to the council. The things that don't fit in the
20 lifestyle of our region, we have an opportunity to also
21 change, and make some changes through proposals with all of
22 the things -- from January on (indiscernible) all the work
23 load. He's really curious about what those documentations
24 contain that he has.

25

26 MR. AMIK: (In Yup'ik)

27

28 INTERPRETER: He forgot to ask you -- he
29 forgot to ask you if there was any questions to his
30 comments.

31

32 MR. NICK: (In Yup'ik) Taylor, Luke has
33 five pages -- five documents that he wrote of what he knew
34 about subsistence and the life from 1927 probably through
35 today, but they're written in Yup'ik, so if they can --
36 someone can make copies to make available for everybody?
37 I'd like to see -- I'd like to read them, because I can
38 read Yup'ik, too.

39

40 MR. AMIK: (In Yup'ik)

41

42 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Bill McCann?

43

44 MR. McCANN: (In Yup'ik)

45

46 INTERPRETER: Bill McCann likes -- he likes
47 he -- it's the first time he has seen an elder that come
48 before a group of people such as this with the
49 documentation of what he wants to convey to the -- these
50 board members, to each and every one of them can have a

1 copy of all of these documents that Luke Amik has. And
2 some of the contents of the documents may need to be
3 conveyed or transferred into the by-laws, because they are
4 done in original Eskimo, so he would like to see those
5 documents and copy them, and Robert has already made that
6 statement.

7

8 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Yeah, Bill. (In
9 Yup'ik) John Hanson?

10

11 MR. HANSON: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
12 Chairman. Luke, (In Yup'ik).

13

14 INTERPRETER: Luke, -- John Hanson says
15 that he appreciates for Luke for having come to the board
16 to address the council. That one item 18- -- that was done
17 in 1867, he has now heard it from two people, from Luke and
18 another guy from Atqasuk that documented in that manner,
19 and he does not go to AFN conventions, but he watches them
20 on the -- in the TV specials, and as people that make
21 presentations, the Indians don't bring that topic up. He
22 would like to have a copy of that documentation. When the
23 federal government bought Alaska, the documentation of
24 that, it's in the -- written down in native or have
25 translators and hand it up to them. He knows it, but he
26 has not heard it until now. He would like to read it in
27 its entirety. So thank you for having come here, and
28 taking the time to come before us and advise us. This
29 looks like (indiscernible) segment (ph) of our schedule.

30

31 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Quyana, John. (In
32 Yup'ik)

33

34 INTERPRETER: Before we get into the next
35 segment of our meeting, there is a group of people that
36 just arrived. They weren't here last night, so we'd like
37 to start off with introduction.

38

39 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: There are some people
40 that are here that didn't -- they wasn't here last night
41 when we're start. Introduce. I see Mike Rearden is here,
42 and also.....

43

44 MR. ANDREW: Coffing.

45

46 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Huh?

47

48 MR. ANDREW: Mike Coffing.

49

50 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Mike Coffing, and also

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1 we have some other people from Alaska Department of Fish
2 and Game, Ida Alexie, she's State Board staff. And also we
3 have Tom Kron. Help me out.

4

5 MR. ANDREW: Dave Fisher, and Helen
6 Armstrong.

7

8 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Helen Armstrong is
9 here. Also Dave Fisher is here. And for those of you that
10 I didn't mention your name, but we want to thank you for
11 participation and interest in the Yukon-Kuskokwim Federal
12 Subsistence Regional Advisory Council at public meeting.
13 Now we go to the next people to be heard.

14

15 MR. ANDREW: (In Yup'ik) Teddy Kucston
16 (ph).

17

18 MR. KUCSTON: (In Yup'ik). My name is
19 Teddy Kucston, Kipnuk, on the council. (In Yup'ik).

20

21 INTERPRETER: He says he's the treasurer.
22 Although he is the treasurer, he has seen no money yet.

23

24 MR. KUCSTON: I just my language, not
25 Gusack. (In Yup'ik)

26

27 INTERPRETER: He uses -- he has been given
28 an opportunity to give his testimony. Now we are on the
29 subsistence topic. Ever since the time he was a young kid,
30 needlefish for his own livelihood as well. (Indiscernible)
31 The man who reared him, he was never a strong man. He was
32 not a very strong man, and so he would have to fend for
33 himself. And many times he (indiscernible) for
34 subsistence. He has used it to live with, and that's his
35 way of life, and it's also (indiscernible). Our
36 (indiscernible) parts -- yeah. The foods are -- other
37 parts used are not for our body like the cookie he had
38 earlier, but our own food has a real value to our
39 nutritional purpose. And our own food is not here in
40 little pieces (ph).

41

42 My testimony will relate to Fish and Game and also
43 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Those agencies are the
44 ones that are in control of the lifestyle. Both those
45 agencies come around, they never have heard those things
46 (indiscernible). Right now they're here with these people
47 that are in control of those. If they don't fool around
48 with our livelihood, with our lifestyle or resources. When
49 he grabs ahold of a little bird, he know that the young
50 bird will not survive after he manhandle it. So he knows

1 that the -- that handling of a young goose will have a --
2 we have an example as a brown bear or black bear. When
3 they throw darts to -- you know, our bodies are immune to
4 some things that when we eat some medication of some sort
5 that don't go along with our body system, our bodies get
6 sick, so when he put the collar on them, he feels back
7 about his collar. He doesn't like collar that they put
8 around him, and -- or he put -- they put a band around his
9 leg, as he travels, he will suffer on account of those
10 collars or bands. So it goes with the animals as well. If
11 the animals are a little more careful, it would be a lot
12 better.

13
14 And also these aircraft that chase game. Many
15 people that hunt have very, very adverse feeling for those
16 aircrafts that chase the animals around. If there's an
17 animal, it's supposed to be -- if he was running from the
18 aircraft, he probably would have a heart attack. So those
19 of us that are trying to subsist on the land are now using
20 what our counterparts are using.

21
22 The Fish and Game, they work (indiscernible) --
23 they catch fish and they put the tag in. Program. The
24 moose, fish originally are loose and (indiscernible)
25 probably they don't survive. So those things need to be
26 careful about. And the subsistence use a little bit lesser
27 (ph). The following year after the -- our big panic, we
28 didn't fish in the inner waters of the Kuskokwim.
29 Sometimes people that do care for him, they gave him some
30 dry fish and feels good about that, too. Those of us,
31 subsistence way of life, and he said and fearing (ph) of
32 the resources that we have is a good thing.

33
34 Exxon's -- after the Exxon spill, ever since then,
35 the number of fish have really reduced, and the -- and
36 commercial fishermen are hurt by that. The coastal as we
37 watched -- the commercial. The commercial salmon ran down
38 quickly (ph).

39
40 Thank you for giving me an opportunity to make a
41 testimony.

42
43 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

44
45 INTERPRETER: Many places to
46 (indiscernible).

47
48 MR. ANDREW: (In Yup'ik)

49
50 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Yeah.

1 MR. ANDREW: (In Yup'ik) Theresa Abraham.

2

3 MS. ABRAHAM: (In Yup'ik)

4

5 INTERPRETER: Theresa Abraham from
6 Chefornak. She's a member of the traditional council. She
7 became president of the traditional council just a couple
8 of days ago, and is grateful that he was invited to the
9 regional council, and also wanted to let you know that all
10 of the members of the council are being -- is consisting of
11 Yup-ik people, and his brother -- her father was the
12 traditional cultural user of the subsistence resources, and
13 when they go out on hunting trips, they used to be out for
14 many days. Sometimes they used to stay for long time, and
15 then they would come back with a handful of resources that
16 they could be used by the people. And also the -- all of
17 the resources that were harvested is to be very carefully
18 taken care of, and none of it is to be wasted. Everything
19 is to be clean so that everything would be, you know, used
20 from the resources, and when her children grew up, they
21 became subsistence hunters, and they would be out on
22 hunting trips, come back with a handful.

23

24 The Yup'ik peoples subsistence way of life is their
25 future and their pride. Their father used to tell them
26 that, you know, they used to take very care of the
27 subsistence fish and wildlife resources they harvest,
28 because the Great Being is observing what and how they
29 handle all of the resources.

30

31 She said that she wanted to thank all of you who
32 are sitting here at this table, and there are some elders
33 sitting here with the council members. Even though they
34 don't have any knowledge of written -- little written
35 language or written way of documenting anything, they know
36 what to say and how to say it, and how to handle it.

37

38 She said that she knows, she's been thinking about
39 -- since the (indiscernible) people who are -- were purse
40 seining, or seining down -- for fishing, she's wondering if
41 it will disrupt the fish that are destined to Kuskokwim
42 and Yukon area, because by purse seining or by fish -- by
43 major fishery, a lot of fish that are destined to different
44 area may be taken, and her recommendation is that, you
45 know, that the harvest numbers should be controlled by the
46 management of the fishery.

47

48 She said that she don't have very much to say but,
49 you know, she wanted to thank you for giving her this
50 opportunity to give her views on this.

1 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Quyana. (In Yup'ik)

2

3 INTERPRETER: Chairman Wilde said that --
4 he's thanking her, because, you know, she told everyone
5 about her way of life and even though the elders may be
6 sitting here and council members may be sitting here, they
7 would -- you know, they would be learning something from
8 her to. He's asking if any council members have anything
9 else to say. The Chairman said that people who come here
10 are given first opportunity to speak, giving testimony.

11

12 MR. ANDREW: (In Yup'ik) John Jimmy, Sr.,
13 Chefornak.

14

15 INTERPRETER: John Jimmy, Sr., from
16 Chefornak is also given an opportunity to testify.

17

18 MR. JIMMY: (In Yup'ik)

19

20 INTERPRETER: I'm from Chefornak, and I'm a
21 member of the council since long time. And those of you
22 who are sitting here, I see that all of you council members
23 are Yup'ik people, and those of us who are living in the
24 villages are. By my personal observation, you are going to
25 be the decision makers, and all of you has great parents.
26 And you know what the directions were, and you have them.
27 And I also have those directions, and I know that I'm
28 holding on to their directions. I have a directive from
29 them how to go about harvesting fish and wildlife.

30

31 About 1959 I went to the area with my father, and
32 when he was fishing in that area, there used to be hardly
33 any Fish and Game enforcement people. There used to be a
34 lot of fish in that area, game and fish in the area. This
35 day and age, I still go to that area to go commercial
36 fishing, but there are not that many fish. I just wanted
37 to say something about that.

38

39 Now shifting to fish and wildlife subsistence
40 harvesting, we have directives that are passed on to us by
41 our grandparents to us. We have unwritten laws. What are
42 the laws? We are told by our grandparents that beginning
43 from fall through -- beginning -- excuse me. Beginning
44 from spring through fall, we must gather fish and wildlife
45 resources for winter. And here's the main point of the
46 directive: We must not waste any of harvested fish and
47 wildlife resources. We were -- we used to have dogs those
48 days, and I grew up in a poor family, where we didn't have
49 very many clothing. Nowadays in this day and age I pass
50 this on to my kids and my grandkids, because it's not my

1 directive. It's a directive that passed from elders to
2 young generation. The subsistence way of life belongs to
3 the native indigenous people of Alaska.

4

5 The councils that serve in the villages try to pass
6 on the directions that were given to the village people
7 from the elders to the younger generation. And in the
8 Village of Chefornek, we are still trying to follow the
9 directions from the elders. We try to follow their
10 directives.

11

12 Nowadays we have a very, very disturbing
13 information about subsistence way of life. Just not too
14 long ago when the caribou came, the Fish and Wildlife or
15 Fish and Game management or enforcement personnel came with
16 the use of helicopters and drove them away. They were
17 landing not too far from the village, and we later find out
18 that the enforcement personnel were trying to drive the
19 caribou away from the area. And why are they doing this?
20 I need to ask this question.

21

22 It -- there was a saying that there will be some
23 abundance of fish and wildlife resources, and in the other
24 time, there will be a decrease of fish and wildlife
25 resources in the area. Some of the resources such as
26 muskrats are decreasing, because we don't hunt those
27 resources. In the old days, they used to tell us if we do
28 not harvest anything any more, they be decreasing. The
29 population levels of those will be decreasing. In the old
30 days people depended on the muskrat for food and for
31 economic support. Nowadays they are decreasing, the
32 population levels of those resources are decreasing. And I
33 want to thank you for all of this, and that's all I said.

34

35 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Quyana. (In Yup'ik)

36

37 INTERPRETER: Chairman said that the
38 question that John has, he would like to have someone to
39 respond to the question to the question that John has.

40

41 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: I would like to hear
42 someone to respond, the question that he's going to give
43 what question it is, I think concerning enforcement. (In
44 Yup'ik)

45

46 INTERPRETER: The question is.....

47

48 MR. JIMMY: (In Yup'ik)

49

50 INTERPRETER: Last month in the Village of

00073

1 Chefornak, there was a float plane and a helicopter. Later
2 we find out that when we observe it with the use of
3 binoculars, and then someone went to see them with a boat.
4 There were a herd -- a small herd -- caribou -- a herd of
5 caribou that were heading toward the village, but then they
6 were driven away by the enforcement people. His question,
7 his main question is as to how enforcement personnel will
8 be doing that to the communities.

9

10 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Taylor, is there
11 someone here that -- who could respond to that?

12

13 MR. ANDREW: Paul Liedberg.

14

15 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Paul Liedberg? Do you
16 want to respond to that question?

17

18 MR. LIEDBERG: (Indiscernible - away from
19 microphone)

20

21 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Yeah, you could come
22 up, go into one of the -- (In Yup'ik) Okay.

23

24 MR. LIEDBERG: Okay. Thank you. I'm sorry
25 -- okay. Okay. How is that? Good? Okay.

26

27 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Tell us your name.

28

29 MR. LIEDBERG: Yeah. Thank you, Mr.
30 Chairman. My name is Paul Liedberg.

31

32 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Indiscernible - away
33 from microphone)

34

35 MR. LIEDBERG: I'm going to address the
36 council later when we talk about agency reports. And I'll
37 attempt to respond to this question.

38

39 It's true that we do use airplanes certainly in our
40 work, and occasionally we use helicopters as well. I'm
41 aware of at least once instance where the gentleman from
42 Chefornak talked about us working out in that area. There
43 have -- to my knowledge, there have never been occurrences
44 where enforcement people either with Fish and Wildlife
45 Service or with Alaska Fish and Wildlife Protection, the
46 State Fish and Wildlife Protection, have ever used
47 airplanes or helicopters to drive animals away, and caribou
48 -- or caribou or other animals away.

49

50 And I should state that one of my responsibilities,

1 I'm the deputy refuge manager with the Yukon Delta Refuge.
2 I work directly for Mike Rearden, the refuge manager, and
3 one of my responsibilities is doing law enforcement, among
4 many other things. And there has never been a case this
5 fall or in the last number of years to my knowledge ever
6 that we've ever used helicopters or airplanes or airplanes
7 to drive animals away from hunters. I just don't have any
8 knowledge of that.

9

10 We've had, let's see, one telephone call, and we've
11 heard several reports on the radio of a similar thing where
12 airplanes or helicopters have been doing that, and I
13 haven't -- I've called about ten different people trying to
14 find out about that, and haven't been able to come up with
15 anything except the rumor. So I don't know anything about
16 that I'm afraid. But enforcement people have never used
17 helicopters or airplanes to drive animals away to my
18 knowledge.

19

20 There -- we did -- as part of our work, we do -- we
21 were doing some work near Chefnak this fall. For one
22 week we had two biologists out there doing a survey of
23 shorebirds that are migrating along the coast there, and we
24 did use an airplane, and I was flying an airplane to drop
25 off those two fellows. And we did use a helicopter as well
26 to get them in there. But that was -- we dropped them off
27 and then picked them up one week later, and that's the only
28 time we were in that area. And I didn't hear any reports
29 at that time, and I didn't see any caribou in the area
30 myself at that time.

31

32 MR. NICK: Well, Paul,.....

33

34 MR. LIEDBERG: Yes, Robert?

35

36 MR. NICK:I just want to make a
37 suggestion here. You do, you know, declare that you did
38 some work near Chefnak where John Jimmy's from. In the
39 future, I think it would be, you know, very proper for
40 everybody if you would go to the village first and tell
41 them what you're going to be doing near them, near the
42 village, and tell -- that everybody understand exactly what
43 you'll be doing there, then you wouldn't have these
44 assertions.

45

46 MR. LIEDBERG: Yeah. Thank you. And we do
47 that most of the time. And I wasn't the one making the
48 contacts, so I don't know if that was done this time or
49 not, but we've heard that before, thank you, and we --
50 almost every one of our surveys that we do, in fact every

1 one of them we're supposed to let everybody know, and so
2 most of the time we will fax information out to the
3 traditional council so they are aware that there may be an
4 airplane in the area or flying for a survey, but that's our
5 practice, and we try to do that all the time.

6

7 MR. NICK: Maybe you could utilize the RITs
8 in that area,.....

9

10 MR. LIEDBERG: Yeah.

11

12 MR. NICK:because they're bilingual.

13

14 MR. LIEDBERG: Yeah, good point. Thank
15 you.

16

17 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Yeah, thank you.

18

19 MR. A. NICK: Mr. Chairman?

20

21 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

22

23 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (In Yup'ik)

24

25 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Yeah.

26

27 MR. A. NICK: Mr. Chairman, Alex Nick, (In
28 Yup'ik).

29

30 INTERPRETER: Alex Nick, he's a refuge
31 information technician. He would like all of you to know
32 that.....

33

34 COURT REPORTER: Take that mike
35 (indiscernible). Thank you. Thank you.

36

37 MR. A. NICK: Alex Nick. (In Yup'ik)

38

39 INTERPRETER: Alex Nick. He's assistant to
40 refuge information technician supervisor. What Paul
41 Liedberg has stated or reported in response to the
42 question, that they would like to inform the public in the
43 area of their work. (Indiscernible) in September he
44 himself faxed the -- faxed information out to the villages
45 that are affected in these survey areas, so they were doing
46 studies in shorebirds all over the area. So he would like
47 for (indiscernible) to know that certain -- that refuge
48 information technicians do fax out the information to the
49 villages that are going to be within the region of the
50 study. Either we call them or fax them the information as

1 to what's going to be going on.

2

3 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Bill?

4

5 MR. McCANN: Yeah. (In Yup'ik)

6

7 INTERPRETER: This is (indiscernible) my
8 purpose, and there was another incident around Akiak area.
9 I think it would be really wise. There are people that
10 make reports that they have sighted in the area. They
11 weren't studying the caribou or looking over the caribou or
12 shorebirds, (indiscernible) for those people that watch
13 these activities that go on. When the caribou are feeding,
14 they don't -- when the airplane is in the area of the herd,
15 you take the number of that aircraft and make a report to
16 the Fish and Game. And perhaps sometimes those aircraft
17 may be civilian aircraft, and those civilian aircraft have
18 done these activities and have it blamed on Fish and
19 Wildlife Service.

20

21 MR. McCANN: Thank you.

22

23 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Qu yana, Bill.
24 (Whispered conversation) We're going to try to finish this
25 here, that people from out of town, there are three here
26 that -- before we have lunch -- break for lunch, in case
27 they want to go home before we finish our meeting. Go
28 ahead, John.

29

30 MR. ANDREW: Yeah. (In Yup'ik) John Upuk
31 (ph) Nicholas.

32

33 INTERPRETER: John Upuk Nicholas will be
34 testifying next from Kasigluk.

35

36 MR. ANDREW: (In Yup'ik)

37

38 MR. NICHOLAS: Yeah. (In Yup'ik)

39

40 INTERPRETER: John Nicholas from Kasigluk.
41 What I have to say, I don't want anyone to be -- feel
42 blamed about what I need to say. I became aware that the
43 subsistence way of life we follow, we follow any law that
44 arise regarding the fish and wildlife resources subsistence
45 harvest. And sometime we talk about fish, we should -- you
46 know, sometimes they come around the table and say that,
47 you know, we need to talk about harvest limits and then
48 they talk about other things. I do not harvest anything
49 that will lead to wanton waste, because when I became aware
50 things were not like how it is today.

1 The Yup'ik way of life was harvesting from land and
2 from water like it's a plate. I don't like what I hear
3 because I've experienced the -- I've experienced hunting
4 moose problems when enforcement people harass hunters.
5 Sometime we do know there's aircrafts that try to drive
6 away the -- drive away the moose sometime from the hunters.

7
8 Just the recent incident is near Kasigluk. There
9 was a moose, there was a moose walking on the tundra, and
10 the helicopter came by and tried to drive it away from the
11 village. When -- these are the problems that we face with
12 management of fish and game. When Fish and Wildlife
13 Service was managing the big game a long time ago, people
14 used to be able to harvest fish -- big game such as moose.

15
16 My recommendation to you is that the management
17 team should be -- the management team should be consisting
18 of native people, not all caucasian people, because then
19 maybe they will be able to listen to the people. The
20 Yup'ik people know the unwritten laws regarding the fish
21 and wildlife resources from a long time ago. And the
22 hunting and fishing activities used to be as it -- people
23 used to never fish for sport, they never used to handle any
24 animals. They never used to fish -- they used -- they
25 never use to have any catch and release fishing. They
26 never used to release any animal after they harvest it.
27 Even the -- even in Eek there used to be an unwritten law
28 toward that. No one used to be allowed to touch any eggs
29 and everyone is to be given a directive not to waste any of
30 the fish and wildlife resources that they harvested.

31
32 Let's take a look at -- let's take a look at the
33 commercial fishing experience that I had one time. In
34 Bethel area we used to fish for salmon, and we used to have
35 boats loads of fish. Nowadays it's not like that.
36 Everything's created by God. He created everything for
37 everyone. Fish and wildlife resources for Yup'ik people.
38 And I'm not against the caucasian people, but that, you
39 know, I want -- the most important thing that I want you to
40 take care of is the harassment of the hunters, because
41 there's a lot of harassing nowadays toward hunters, and if
42 we break any regulations, they give us fine. They fine us
43 for that. But other people, you know, like harass people
44 or our parents that are hunt- -- rather harassing hunters.
45 They're not even given citations for doing that.

46
47 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Qu yana. (In Yup'ik)

48
49 INTERPRETER: Any council members have any
50 comments toward that?

1 MR. NICK: (In Yup'ik)

2

3 INTERPRETER: Robert Nick, he wanted to say
4 something in Yup'ik. I believe in the people that I'm
5 working with around the table. And I also wanted to bring
6 up the fish and wildlife resource harvest that will be --
7 it will be close to the Yup'ik written -- unwritten
8 regulations, because Yup'ik people know what the
9 regulations are. I know the fact that, you know, since the
10 council, regional council consists of mostly or all Yup'ik
11 people, they will know what to do and it will be close to
12 unwritten laws of the Yup'ik people. And I hear from the
13 elders from my village, there's to be elderly leaders,
14 elderly leaders, and there used to be unwritten laws that
15 were used as directives for harvesting fish and wildlife
16 resources. And when they go out hunting, they used to try
17 to follow that. And what I observe around the table here,
18 the regulations, the regulations that we are going to be
19 developing, are probably going to be close to that. And
20 we're going to be working with -- we're going to be working
21 closely with the tribal council members and the communities
22 and we should try to adopt what the regulations are being
23 proposed.

24

25 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Yeah. Qu yana. (In
26 Yup'ik)

27

28 MR. ANDREW: (In Yup'ik) Moses White, Sr.,
29 Kasigluk.

30

31 INTERPRETER: There are two more people to
32 testify. The next person is Moses White, Sr., from
33 Kasigluk.

34

35 MR. ANDREW: (In Yup'ik)

36

37 MR. WHITE: (In Yup'ik)

38

39 INTERPRETER: My name is Moses White, I'm
40 from Kasigluk, but I was born in the fishing village of
41 Eek. In 1967, I became a resident of the Village of
42 Kasigluk. And I live close to Nunapitchuk, and I'm one of
43 the -- one of my relatives, close relatives is Robert Nick.

44

45 The subsistence issue is being worked on for a long
46 time. A lot of times we testify regarding subsistence way
47 of life in front of the Fishery Board. We all know that
48 beginning from October 1, 1999, the federal government is
49 going to be managing the fishery, subsistence fishery in
50 Alaska.

1 When I first moved to Kasigluk, I used to have two
2 directives from my father. The first one is not to
3 override anyone in the community. The second one is that
4 any community fish and wildlife subsistence unwritten law
5 should be followed. If you don't follow that, you'll
6 become void. You'll be like a useless person. Those of us
7 who were given these directives from our parents, how we're
8 going to be living our lives, what's good and what's bad.
9 For that reason, those who were testifying before me, they
10 were testifying regarding the fish and wildlife harvest
11 unwritten laws, and the laws that were followed by the
12 native people, and Luke Amik spoke about many of the
13 issues, or rather the issues that I wanted to talk about.

14
15 And when -- and my understanding is that when
16 Russia sold State of Alaska to -- or Alaska to America,
17 they sold the land under one condition, that they should
18 continue with, you know, allowing indigenous people to live
19 their subsistence way of life. And those of you who are
20 sitting here will be able to be making regulations or
21 subsistence regulations regarding the harvest of fish and
22 wildlife by reviewing the regulations or proposed
23 regulations. You should delete what's not good for the
24 people, and insert anything that might work for the people.
25 You must try to watch what you're doing and work toward the
26 betterment of the subsistence regulations.

27
28 And unwritten laws is that there's cycles for all
29 of the fish and wildlife. Some years they decrease, the
30 population levels of the certain species of fish and
31 wildlife decrease, and at sometimes -- when at some point
32 in time they increase. Taking the example of the beaver
33 situation nowadays, there's too many beavers increasing all
34 over the delta. What this council should do is work toward
35 the, you know, dealing with the beaver situation so that
36 maybe the beaver pelt will be selling more than what it's
37 selling today. Maybe by doing that, you will work towards
38 -- you will work towards dealing with the situation on the
39 beaver. When beaver messes up in the streams and creeks,
40 anything that's in that area is (indiscernible) any more.

41
42 And sometime I -- in my personal experience that I
43 have different ways that I deal with subsistence issues for
44 subsistence hunting and trapping, and I pass that on to my
45 children, and I try to pass on the information that was
46 passed on to me to a younger generation. Those of us who
47 are subsistence users, we do not overharvest any fish and
48 wildlife, because we consider wanton waste. We only
49 harvest what we need.

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1 This is probably enough for -- I have said enough,
2 and a lot of people who are -- who testified before me
3 covered most everything I wanted to say. Thank you very
4 much.

5
6 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Quyana. (In Yup'ik)

7
8 INTERPRETER: Does anyone have anything to
9 say toward him?

10
11 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Nick, Robert?

12
13 MR. NICK: (In Yup'ik)

14
15 INTERPRETER: Robert Nick wanted to add to
16 what Moses said. What we heard is all good. I'm like some
17 people, you know, I tend to forget some things. Like
18 looking at the mirror, looking at myself, looking at myself
19 in a mirror, and when I put it away, you know, I don't -- I
20 forget how I look like. Everything that he have said are
21 good. I just wanted to add this to some of you who
22 testified.

23
24 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Yeah. Quyana. (In
25 Yup'ik).

26
27 MR. ANDREW: (In Yup'ik)

28
29 INTERPRETER: The next person is Owen Ivan
30 from the Village of Akiak. And those of you who want to
31 testify later, you need to fill out a form before you
32 testify.

33
34 MR. IVAN: (In Yup'ik)

35
36 INTERPRETER: My name is Owen Ivan. I'm a
37 tribal chairman of the Akiak Community Tribal Council in
38 Akiak. This is my first time I come to this meeting,
39 regional council meeting, but I've gone to the State of
40 Alaska's -- and because the -- since the Fish and Wildlife
41 Service took over -- because Fish and Wildlife Service took
42 over the subsistence fishery, I wanted to come here and
43 explain how you operate.

44
45 I wanted to explain this first, somebody else
46 already mentioned this, but I wanted to explain this. The
47 beaver situation, we hear that there's a lot of creeks and
48 drainages are being dammed by the beavers. I wanted to say
49 something about the beaver. I came -- I come from the area
50 where there's a lot of beaver. Here there's hardly any.

00081

1 They're very rare here. In my area, last year when I went
2 out moose hunting, each and every pond had a beaver house.
3 What are you going to do about this? When it's breakup
4 next year, there will be more beaver. How are you going
5 with this beaver situation? Are there any ways that you
6 can work toward decrease of the beaver population?

7

8 Nowadays our subsistence nets for whitefish, you
9 know, there's -- there are new species that we catch, and
10 some elders say they're tundra whitefish. They are tundra
11 whitefish caught in Akiak area.

12

13 I want to know -- I want to know what are we going
14 to do, who will we recommend, what to do with the beaver
15 situation, or are we going to deal with the price of the
16 pelt, or are we -- what are we going to do? There are
17 many, many fish species that need to be -- that need to be
18 considered. There's blackfish, there's other fish species.
19 Those will be affected by this.

20

21 The second thing is above our village, I need to
22 know what agencies operate with helicopters. This isn't
23 the first time I'm complaining. I also complained in the
24 AVCP convention. We need to know who's harassing the
25 caribou by use of helicopters. No one knows. No one want
26 to admit who they are. We need to -- you need to try to
27 deal with this problem, because, you know, there's
28 harassment of caribou, and they're being driven away from
29 hunters. I wanted -- you know, when hunters don't catch
30 anything, they've just wasted money for fuel. Thank you
31 very much.

32

33 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Comments? Questions?

34

35 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: John Thompson?

36

37 MR. THOMPSON: John Thompson (In Yup'ik).

38

39 INTERPRETER: John Thompson, council member
40 from St. Mary's. He wanted to say something about this.
41 Not only once have I heard about this problem. The problem
42 of caribou being harassed or driven away by the use of
43 aircrafts. When I first heard about it, I never even --
44 didn't want to think about it. But because I heard about
45 this so many times now, I want to talk for just this
46 problem. How many of us are here who experience reindeer
47 herding? People who used to own a herd of reindeer, they
48 never used to live and stay in one spot. I wonder why they
49 do that. There -- they try to fatten the animal. They
50 used to drive them from one to another, so that they will

1 feed, and try to -- try to make them fat. Maybe the
2 caribou's like that. When their habitat is not too good
3 for them any more, they want to move to other area. The
4 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the Alaska Department
5 of Fish and Game, if they think that the animals are not
6 going to be good in that certain habitat, maybe they'll do
7 something that -- maybe the caribous trying to migrate to
8 the areas where there's food. Maybe it's better to leave
9 them alone, let them do what they want to do, let them
10 migrate to wherever they want to migrate. We need to do
11 that, so that they will be satisfied with the habitat they
12 have. Maybe we should just leave them alone and let them
13 be. That's what -- or let them alone, whatever they want
14 to do. Maybe it will be for the benefit of the animal.
15 Thank you very much.

16

17 MR. McCANN: (In Yup'ik)

18

19 INTERPRETER: Billy McCann. It's -- at one
20 time somebody told him about what he observed about
21 whitefish in a certain drainage where those -- there was a
22 beaver dam. There were schools of whitefish above the
23 beaver dams. They couldn't get out of that drainage. He
24 said, and then he destroyed the beaver dam. And in a short
25 time he filled up his boat.

26

27 There's management of Fish and Game, and there's
28 also management of -- different management scheme of Fish
29 and Game and Fish and Wildlife. There was -- you know, he
30 came up with a plan of dealing with the situation, but, you
31 know, like destroying the beaver dams and dealing with the
32 situation, but then, you know, they said beavers are smart.
33 They will repair their beaver dam again. And this
34 subsistence resources which are whitefish that need to be
35 dealt with. We need to do something about the problem and
36 issue of beaver and beaver dams, and we need to do
37 something about this.

38

39 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Mary Gregory.

40

41 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

42

43 INTERPRETER: Mary Gregory said that I like
44 to go jigging in wintertime for pike, and in summertime I
45 like to jig for burbot up in Bethel. Over in Bethel, the
46 community of Bethel, there's a drainage near Tundra Ridge,
47 that there's a beaver dam, and then it covered up a
48 culvert. One of the people used -- one of the people used
49 to be harvesting blackfish right in that drainage. That
50 beaver -- or beaver dam was destroyed, but then, you know,

1 they repaired it, and then it caused more problems. And
2 the beaver situation is the beginning of a decrease of fish
3 and wild- -- or rather fish species, decrease of population
4 levels. That should be allowed -- the beaver situation
5 should be taken care of.

6

7 MS. GREGORY: Allow us to hunt them,
8 because we can use the fur and the meat as our subsistence
9 food. (In Yup'ik)

10

11 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Quyana, Mary. Robert
12 Nick?

13

14 MR. NICK: (In Yup'ik)

15

16 INTERPRETER: Robert Nick, (In Yup'ik).
17 Oh. Robert wanted to add to what other people have said
18 about beavers. She said -- he said that, you know, he'd
19 lived in the area where there's beaver problems. He said
20 there's a drainage called Ilaiyak (ph). I don't know what
21 that is in English. He said he used to follow the drainage
22 all the way up to behind Kalskag. The last time when he
23 went up river in the same drainage, he went through 15
24 beaver dams, and he didn't even go to where he used to
25 hunt, because he came upon a beaver dam that couldn't be --
26 you know, he couldn't go over, so, you know -- in that area
27 that's there, there's a very important spawning area for
28 pike fish, white fish and other fish species. And there's
29 a guy from he believes Akiachak who has fall camp upriver.
30 And then he went upriver, same area, and he came upon a
31 beaver dam, and there was, you know, in winter time when
32 they went to hunt- -- trapping in that area, there was a
33 couple of beavers, and there was so many fish trapped up
34 river. And when he destroyed the beaver dam, they were
35 flushed out of that. So many whitefish were flushed out of
36 that. The beaver situation need to be dealt with. Then it
37 need to be dealt with, and we need to do something about
38 it.

39

40 In the old days, there used to be bounty for
41 harvest of wolves. His -- my idea is that, you know, we
42 should make a bounty for beaver, maybe there should be a
43 \$25 bounty or whatever it might be. People will hunt those
44 beaver maybe, and trap them.

45

46 If I go upriver, up ten miles up the drainage of
47 Johnson River, I might see about 100 beaver maybe. Nobody
48 wants to trap beaver, because it's worthless. You can't
49 make anything out of beaver pelt. A lot of people in
50 tundra area, they don't eat beaver, because that's not

1 what, you know, what they grow up with, and they don't like
2 the meat. But the directive that Luke mentioned earlier is
3 that the unwritten laws of the Yup'ik people is that, you
4 know, people has to eat whatever is harvested, and not
5 matter what they are.

6

7 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: James.

8

9 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman, (In Yup'ik).

10

11 INTERPRETER: I wanted to say something
12 about fishery management that's going to be managed by Fish
13 and Wildlife Service. I'm looking forward to that, and I
14 wanted to -- I also look forward to what I will hear during
15 the testimonies of the native communities during this
16 meeting, and I wanted to say something else also towards
17 the management of the fishery. I know that some of the
18 regulations are already developed and being proposed and
19 some of them are already being managed by Fish and
20 Wildlife. There's regulations already in place, and we
21 know some of them, and we hear some of them during our
22 meeting. The management of the fishery by federal
23 government, we hear some of the things that our subsistence
24 was by people who gave testimony, and some problems that
25 will affect the subsistence fishery.

26

27 I also am one of the people who harvest whitefish
28 for subsistence. In the regulations it tells us that
29 there's a regulation in place right now that says no
30 drainage should be blocked by a net, and the net should be
31 -- should not be blocked by a net all the way across. But
32 some people don't follow the regulations. I experienced
33 harvesting whitefish, or fish last week. I just -- part of
34 my net half way across the drainage. Other people were
35 catching lots, I could just catch a few by doing that. We
36 should let the people know -- we should let the people of
37 the delta know what the regulations say about fishery, and
38 we should also educate our younger generation about how the
39 regulations (indiscernible) in this instance would be found
40 so that we won't be overharvesting any fishery resources,
41 considering other people who needs them also.

42

43 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Quyana. Owen Ivan, (In
44 Yup'ik).

45

46 INTERPRETER: Chairman Harry Wilde also
47 mentioned that there's a proposal in place regarding the
48 beaver situation. The State of Alaska has not done
49 anything about their recommendation or their proposal. We
50 will be doing something about beavers choice (ph) and only

1 after the State of Alaska comes up with a recommendation as
2 to how the proposed regulation should be adopted. And we
3 thank you for coming here, and we also want to help you to
4 work on the situation, the beaver situation, because I
5 never go to the area where there is no black fish.

6

7 And the last person is Wassilie Bavilla. Wassilie
8 Bavilla from Quinhagak.

9

10 MR. BAVILLA: (In Yup'ik)

11

12 INTERPRETER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for
13 allowing me to give this testimony. In the past I've given
14 testimony to subsistence. Federal subsistence management I
15 think will be good if you come up cooperative agreement to
16 -- with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. I will favor
17 that if comanagement is being considered. You've -- this
18 is -- many of these things about different fish and
19 wildlife -- rather fish and wildlife harvest opportunities,
20 and also about fishery. If you manage the -- if you manage
21 the fishery with the comanagement opportunities, that will
22 be very good. And if you manage the fishery as a native
23 group, it will also be good. Because this is going to
24 become a reality, let us handle our own people, just with
25 we have our own native river rangers. If we have our
26 native biologists, that will be very good.

27

28 In Quinhagak, we have river rangers and we have
29 biologists. It's operating very good here in the
30 community, and there are no problems or no frictions
31 between the management groups. Our river rangers are being
32 enforced by two of our native people. If anyone is
33 observing wanton waste on the fishery or anything that a
34 problem -- if any problems arise, the river rangers will be
35 reporting back to the local tribal community.

36

37 And also considering Proposal 13, your proposal,
38 I'm in opposition to Proposal Number 13. I am recommending
39 that Proposal Number 13 should not be passed.

40

41 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Qu yana, Wassilie. (In
42 Yup'ik)

43

44 INTERPRETER: Are there any comments toward
45 what Wassilie presented?

46

47 MR. CHURCH: My name is Willard Church, and
48 I have a few comments. I think it's really important for
49 our native and tribal organizations to be involved in
50 taking care of their own resources. The resources that

1 they depend on, their lands, their water, their fish, their
2 birds, their animals, because a lot of the times, every --
3 there's people that think that, you know, the regulations,
4 the regulations are there to manage us on how we're
5 supposed to use these resources. But the way that I see
6 it, for any type of management to work in our villages, we
7 need to learn how to take care of ourselves. We need to
8 learn how to take care of our own resources. We need our
9 own regulations. We need to educate our own children, you
10 know, on how they're supposed to use the resource.

11

12 I can look out here today, you know, on my own
13 land, my own river. You know, sometimes we don't think
14 ahead. We think about what we want today. We think about
15 if we see two moose, three moose, we want all of them, but
16 sometimes we've got to think that, you know, there's
17 somebody else that may be camping here down below that
18 needs that animal, too. If we only take what we need and
19 use it like I've been hearing all morning, and take care of
20 that resource and use it as much as we can, distribute it,
21 it will last longer for us. The animals will be here for a
22 long time. The fish will be here.

23

24 For years and years as I was growing up, as I
25 started to become aware of the issues on natural resources
26 and wildlife, I heard everybody arguing. Arguing over,
27 that's my share, this is my share. Sport fishermen,
28 commercial fishermen, subsistence fishermen, biologists,
29 Fish and Wildlife, Fish and Game, everybody arguing. You
30 know, if we argue, you know, where is that resource going
31 to go? We'll argue and argue and argue, and nothing will
32 get done, because nobody can find direction. You know,
33 we've got to think ahead to my son, my grandson, my great
34 grandson. We've got to make sure that we have resources
35 available for them, too. We've got to do what we can to
36 take care of it. You know, we can't go out there and
37 decide for our children how they want to live, because they
38 are going to grow up into a lifestyle that's different.
39 It's not my father's time, or my grandfather's time, or my
40 great grandfather's time. We live in a different time
41 today, but a lot of the values, we want them to continue
42 and continue.

43

44 But sometimes, like myself for example, I work for
45 Wassilie Bavilla and the IRA council and the native
46 village. You know, we use a different tool today. We use
47 paper. We use cooperative agreements. We work with Fish
48 and Wildlife and Fish and Game. We try to get jobs for our
49 people. We try to bring in funding so we can have people
50 working so that they can go out and take care of

1 themselves. You know, lifestyles for us and my generation
2 is changing. You know, our priorities are different. We
3 want education, we want jobs, we want an opportunity to go
4 out and subsist. We want boats, motors, rifles, we want
5 snow machines, but we also want to be native people. But
6 we go to the store and we'll buy chicken, we'll buy ground
7 beef, we'll buy donuts. We'll buy all this stuff. And
8 sometimes you look at what we eat, it's -- part of it is
9 native food, a lot of it is food you buy from the store.

10
11 You know, our economy's changing. It used to be a
12 subsistence economy, but now we have to work. For me to go
13 hunting out here, I need to work in my job. It's the same
14 for many of us younger people. You know, it's difficult
15 for us to try to adjust, because we hear all this
16 information coming from different groups, different groups,
17 and we're asked to make decisions. You know, we ask for
18 direction, but everybody wants to give us direction. But
19 it's like we've got to go out and do it for ourselves
20 sometimes.

21
22 And I talk to many people in my generation and
23 younger. Everyone wants to see our own people manage our
24 own users. We want to manage our own resources. We want
25 to use the mechanisms, the organizations that are here.
26 You know, we want to bring in that funding and learn how to
27 do it ourselves. You know, that's important to us. We use
28 what we can today. Doy.

29
30 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Quyana, Willard.
31 Wassilie, (In Yup'ik)

32
33 MR. BAVILLA: (In Yup'ik)

34
35 INTERPRETER: Wassilie wanted to make a
36 copy of cooperative agreement proposal.

37
38 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Uh-huh.

39
40 MR. BAVILLA: I've got a copy of it.

41
42 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Okay. (In Yup'ik)

43
44 MR. SHARP: (In Yup'ik)

45
46 INTERPRETER: My name is John Sharp. I am
47 resident of Quinhagak since birth, and I became aware here.
48 I'm glad that this younger generation are doing something.
49 We hear a lot of good things from our elders from Kipnuk,
50 elder Kislamic (ph) from Kipnuk. He talked to us about a

1 lot of things that we never even hear about, something that
2 we should know about. These are the things that you and I
3 possess. It doesn't belong to the federal government. It
4 doesn't belong to the state government.

5

6 MR. SHARP: These two parties along with
7 their citizens, it does not belong to them, and it does not
8 belong to the Russians. It does not belong to Germans. It
9 does not belong to any other race. This our only resource.
10 (In Yup'ik) This land, the village, everywhere you go.
11 (In Yup'ik) It's your mom and dad, it's your grandfather,
12 your grandmother, your ancient times. It may be gone, but
13 it's still here. This is ours. (In Yup'ik).

14

15 INTERPRETER: I am going to give you -- we
16 are going to give you strength. We believe in you, because
17 you are our people. You harvest from the land, from the
18 sea, and from the drainages, all of that you've already
19 made know, your ways of life. And it passes on to us
20 younger generations. Wassilie Bavilla already talked about
21 this. I don't like Proposal Number 13. Within the Unit
22 18, there is a proposal to open to sport. This applies to
23 sport hunters and not to resident people. In our community
24 here there is a lot of sport activities here. There used
25 to be lot of fish that used to be harvested by the local
26 people here, but now those sport and subsistence resources
27 are limited, because there's too many harvesting. If you
28 open caribou hunting to sport hunters, there won't be any
29 more sport hunting -- rather there won't be any more
30 resource. There will be limited and decreased population
31 levels.

32

33 MR. SHARP: This is my opposed to Proposal
34 13 concerning the nonresident open season within Unit 18
35 south of the Yukon River. I don't care if it says issue, I
36 don't care if it says what will happen if nothing is done.
37 Or I don't care who is likely to benefit, or I don't care
38 who is likely to suffer. I don't believe in too many
39 governments. Too many governments, you've got too many
40 snakes. The state is using my people right here in this
41 village with the river. Their excuse is fish. My people
42 benefit nothing. And we have argued against the state
43 concerning this problem we are having right here in this
44 river.

45

46 I don't have a good word for Dave Fisher, and he's
47 right over there, right behind my ears. I don't have a
48 good word for him, and I don't want to speak to him, and I
49 don't want to talk to him. (In Yup'ik)

50

1 INTERPRETER: If you want to help our -- if
2 people you invited use their expertise, let them do what
3 they want them to do. When you serve on the board -- if
4 you serve on the board, it studies, you are working very
5 hard, there's many, many people that you're working for.
6

7 MR. SHARP: I oppose Proposal 13. I want
8 to say -- I want to thank you, Willard, my IRA president,
9 council, Wassilie Bavilla for speaking for us, and I thank
10 you for accepting me to say a few words to you. Quyana.
11

12 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Yeah. Quyana. (In
13 Yup'ik)

14
15 INTERPRETER: We're going to have a little
16 break until 1:30.

17
18 (Off record)

19
20 (On record)

21
22 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

23
24 INTERPRETER: Meeting of this council to
25 order again.

26
27 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: We're going to our
28 agenda at this time, B, action, recommendation needed.
29 Issue five, regional council structure, Yukon-Kuskokwim
30 Delta, Western Interior, and Eastern Interior Regions. Who
31 is taking that?

32
33 INTERPRETER: Mr. Chairman, what part of
34 agenda again?

35
36 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Item B.

37
38 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Item B, action,
39 recommendation needed. Okay. Taylor?

40
41 MR. BRELSFORD: Mr. Chairman, John is
42 bringing some more material, a page, so if we could go
43 ahead with Helen Armstrong's presentation about customary
44 trade, that's the next number, and then we'll come back to
45 regional councils in just a few minutes. I think that
46 might be the most efficient.

47
48 MS. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr. Chair. My
49 name is Helen Armstrong. I'm normally the anthropologist
50 for the North Slope, the Northwest and the Seward Peninsula

1 regions. I've been working there for a number of years.
2 But Pat McClenahan, who's normally the anthropologist you
3 see here is on leave for nine months. She's gone back to
4 university to work on her doctorate, so I'm filling in at
5 this meeting. We hope to have another anthropologist hired
6 by the time you meet again.

7

8 But I want to thank you, this is my first trip to
9 the Yukon Delta, and I'm thrilled to be here. It's nice to
10 come see another part of Alaska, and you've all been very
11 warm and welcoming.

12

13 What we're going to be talking about is on this
14 orange sheet that we just passed out. It is regional
15 advisory council meetings recognizing customary trade
16 practices. This is one of the issues that was discussed in
17 the federal subsistence fisheries plan that --
18 implementation plan that Taylor talked about earlier.
19 You've also probably at previous meetings had some
20 discussion when we were first talking about fisheries, the
21 issue of customary trade and what that means. What we're
22 doing now is we're going to all the regional council
23 meetings to gather information about what customary and
24 barter is in rural Alaska. Right now the -- there -- in
25 the regulations, it's quite permissive with regards to
26 customary trade. It defines it as the cash sale of fish
27 and wildlife resources regulated in this part not otherwise
28 prohibited by federal law or regulation, to support
29 personal and family needs, and does not include trade which
30 constitutes a significant commercial enterprise.

31

32 Neither legislative history nor the judicial
33 findings nor the regulations define what significant
34 commercial enterprise means for customary trade. Also,
35 those people who are working on the fisheries plan have
36 realized that the potential for regional differences in the
37 meaning of the terms makes it more difficult. So what we
38 want to do is ask the regional councils what their
39 recommendations are, and how we would define customary
40 trade practices for your region, and discuss a process for
41 addressing the concerns that have been identified. So at
42 this point we're just talking about definitions of what
43 customary trade is, and what those practices are, and then
44 if you have any ideas about the process that we should use
45 for addressing those concerns.

46

47 The time frame that we're going to be using is go
48 to the meetings in the fall of 1999, gather information on
49 definitions of customary trade practices, and then
50 following that historic and contemporary information on the

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1 exchange of subsistence-caught fish and shellfish will be
2 sought from ADF&G Subsistence Division, and other
3 organizations. At the winter 2000 council meetings, we'll
4 have a progress report that will be provided, and we'll be
5 seeking your advice on whether we need to do field
6 interviewing, and then in the fall of 2000 we'll provide
7 you with a draft report describing regional customary trade
8 practices, and have you review that. At that time then we
9 will also be asking the councils how to address the
10 concerns around customary trade practices, and how we would
11 prevent abuse of -- just prevent abuse. The Board would
12 like the council recommendations on what policies may be
13 needed, the regulations developed, or whether customary
14 trade practices need to be recognized with region-specific
15 regulations.

16
17 So at this time, what we're asking you to do is to
18 look at the definitions that are at the bottom of the page
19 and on the back of the page, and to see whether you agree
20 with these, if they are things that are important in your
21 region, that apply to your region, and -- or whether some
22 of them you don't think are necessary at all.

23
24 We've already been to a number of council meetings
25 and gotten some very good comments on these definitions.

26
27 So the first one, barter, the exchange of
28 subsistence fish or their parts for other subsistence food
29 or parts of other food in general. That is, the exchange
30 of salmon strips -- for example, the exchange of salmon
31 strips for beluga. Is that a definition that you think is
32 applicable in your region, and can you think of other
33 examples of barter in the Y-K Delta.

34
35 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman?

36
37 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: James?

38
39 MR. CHARLES: James Charles. Thank you,
40 Mr. Chairman. Helen, I'm James Charles. In my area a lot
41 of bartering is usually for seals to fish. The seals we
42 people catch from the ocean in spring, people from the
43 coast, they don't dry fish or go to fish camps any more, so
44 they bring their seals over or up the river for dry fish.
45 So that's what I've seen happening in my area. And there
46 has been other barter going on in different areas, so I'd
47 like to see that kept the same way. Thank you.

48
49 MR. ABRAHAM: (Indiscernible - away from
50 microphone)

1 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Yeah.

2

3 MR. ABRAHAM: Yeah, thank you, Mr.

4 Chairman. I'm speaking as a resident from Bristol Bay, not
5 as an RIT.

6

7 COURT REPORTER: Could you state your name
8 for the record, sir?

9

10 MR. ABRAHAM: Huh?

11

12 COURT REPORTER: Could you state your name
13 for the record?

14

15 MR. ABRAHAM: Pete Abraham from Bristol
16 Bay. I'm speaking as a resident from Bristol Bay, not an
17 RIT. On this -- on the first side over here it says
18 barter, exchange of subsistence fish or their parts for
19 subsistence food. And the next one over -- the side over
20 here is barter and trade, exchange of subsistence fish, and
21 a tradesman, a person who barter or trades subsistence.
22 In Bristol Bay, we craft our barter and trademan. We just
23 made it one authority -- or one -- we just call it barter
24 and trade. Excuse me.

25

26 Bartering or exchanging for cash was a big
27 question, because down in Southeast area somebody had
28 traded the subsistence herring eggs and sold it for -- the
29 other guy bought it and turned around and sold it for
30 \$9,000. And I don't think that's right. So we've got to
31 be careful on our working over here how we barter for cash.
32 But like if I come to Quinhagak or Eek or Kasigluk, I'd
33 say, I would like to trade you -- I'd like to do some
34 trading over here, what we call barter and trade. I will
35 trade your whitefish in place of gasoline here, but here's
36 the cash for your -- the gas for you to buy. We talked
37 about limiting the cash sales, topping it off some place or
38 maybe -- we talked about \$300 purchase per.

39 I think Taylor can explain some more something I
40 might have missed. Thank you.

41

42 MR. BRELSFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman,
43 just to report about what the Bristol Bay Council was
44 doing, I think their advice was to keep the definition of
45 barter, and keep the definition of customary trade, but
46 that joint definition, barter/trade, they questioned
47 whether that was helpful, and then they were questioning
48 whether there was any need for a separate definition of
49 tradesman. Robin Samuelsen on the Bristol Bay Regional
50 Council also serves on the International Pacific Halibut

1 Commission, and they're developing a subsistence policy for
2 halibut, and I believe that's where the dollar value of
3 \$300 as the upper limit from customary trade, it was from
4 the discussions about halibut. Some of the other council
5 members felt like that was maybe a little low, and that it
6 should be 1,000, 2,000, somewhere in there. But the
7 important thing for this afternoon is for your council to
8 think about the history of the Y-K region and any ideas you
9 guys might have.

10
11 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Lester Wilde?

12
13 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, as far as I
14 can remember, and as far as I've been taught, whenever
15 there was subsistence involved, there was -- subsistence
16 and cash was never used in the same sentence. I have a
17 problem with trade for cash. Now, that can be easily
18 abused. For my own piece of mind and thinking about the
19 subsistence lifestyle that we have, I think anything that
20 has to do with cash as far as I'm concerned doesn't need to
21 be in the wording for customary trade. I don't know how
22 the rest of the people feel, but that's my own feeling.

23
24 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: John Thompson?

25
26 MR. THOMPSON: Yeah, I'm trying -- I have a
27 problem with parts, too. What parts of?

28
29 MR. BRELSFORD: Helen, the question is what
30 do we do about parts of fish?

31
32 MS. ARMSTRONG: I'm sorry. I was so busy
33 taking down (indiscernible). I don't think that this --
34 Actually, I mean, I didn't write this, so I'm not sure
35 exactly what she was referring to, but I would believe that
36 in talking about say roe instead of -- you know, that it's
37 parts of the fish, not the whole fish might be used for
38 barter or trade. That would be my assumption, that's what
39 she's talking about.

40
41 MR. THOMPSON: The parts is really too
42 broad, what parts, and that makes it hard to control.

43
44 MS. ARMSTRONG: So you would prefer a more
45 specific definition than something that general?

46
47 MR. McCANN: (In Yup'ik)

48
49 INTERPRETER: Billy McCann said he'll say
50 this, he'll say what he has to say in the English. He says

1 that -- Billy McCann says that the subsistence-caught
2 resources, fishery resources are usually traded for cash
3 sometime. Sometime, you know, some -- it would be better
4 if it's better worded, like if there's a limit. If there's
5 a limit placed on the customary trade, it would be better.
6 Sometimes they -- you know, they need a limit of some kind,
7 because, you know, if there's no limit, it might be abused
8 sometime. He think that, you know, based on what was
9 reported earlier for the amount of money that was traded
10 for cash, that's too much, and I think it's -- he said he
11 think that it's better to place a part -- or rather the
12 limit on it.

13
14 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Robert Nick?

15
16 MR. NICK: (In Yup'ik)

17
18 INTERPRETER: Robert Nick says that he's
19 thinking about it, and because it's an actual item, the
20 item that's placed, it's an action item. We know that
21 there's a lot of activities and there are a lot of
22 residents like -- nonresidents like people who come from
23 Korea or aliens or oriental people. They can make anything
24 into -- they could trade it into cash easily, and they
25 could make things very beautifully and then they could turn
26 them into cash. Sometimes, you know, some customary trade
27 could be done like local whale blubbers or, you know, like
28 other parts of other resources, we can make it possible to
29 trade that for cash. But then to make it possible for --
30 as a customary trade like, take me for an example, if I
31 take anyone trying to trade anything that's come from the
32 Bering Sea, I can trade that easily with the fish that's
33 caught from Kuskokwim. It's not very good to open
34 customary trade to anything, especially if we consider
35 Bethel. There are a lot of oriental people living there.
36 They're most likely taking over a lot of business, like
37 restaurants and other places, and it's not good to open any
38 opportunities to them. In my village, this will continue
39 customary trade. We know that, you know, they sell some of
40 the subsistence-caught fish and wildlife resources for
41 cash. I truly believe that people -- I truly believe that
42 the customary tradition is being passed on from older
43 generation to younger generation, that giving someone for
44 nothing has better price than cash. That is good to
45 people, and by that they will be given better luck in the
46 future time, and the person they just will be harvesting
47 more, more than what he actually harvest at the time.

48
49 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Phillip Moses?

1 INTERPRETER: Phillip Moses.

2

3 MR. MOSES: Yeah. (In Yup'ik)

4

5 INTERPRETER: Even though we are all Yup'ik
6 people, our diet is not the same. A certain community that
7 resides in a different community has a different diet. Our
8 diet are not the same. And the other villages, we do not
9 harvest certain fish and wildlife resources, we want to
10 each those resources that they harvest. The inland people
11 want to trade sea oil, for example. And the coastal people
12 want to trade something that comes from the inland. We
13 should not make -- we should not make a big issue out of
14 this, because this is being practiced from the time of our
15 elders to today, passed down from older generation to
16 younger generation. When the opportunity comes to trade
17 anything, that's made possible everywhere. People each
18 others by doing this. They make it possible to do
19 customary trade with other villages. And because it's our
20 tradition from the time immemorial, we should not make --
21 it has not become a big issue relative to this date, and it
22 should be continued. We should not make an issue out of
23 it. We should continue doing that. Some of us still
24 continues doing that. Customary trade in this day and age,
25 when someone don't have anything to trade with, you trade
26 it with a little cash. Sometime, you know, they give them
27 for free, and people are thankful for doing that. When
28 they think about someone in a distant community, instead of
29 thinking about any trade or cash, those people are very
30 thankful for that. That practice been continued from
31 elders to elders, and from elders to the younger
32 generation. And those of you who are here don't understand
33 what that means, and you don't know what we're talking
34 about.

35

36 When a certain person don't have any resources
37 available to him or her, the community helps that person by
38 providing for them, and they give those resources for free.
39 And one of the people commented earlier that they give them
40 without asking for anything in return. That tradition,
41 customary and tradition should be continued, because it's
42 from time immemorial. We should be thankful of what's been
43 done by our elders and it should be continued. Those of us
44 who are sitting here during the testimonies, they've given
45 of -- given us a lot of advice, and we should be very
46 thankful for that. That is all I wanted to say of the word
47 customary trade.

48

49 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Yeah. Quyana. (In
50 Yup'ik)

1 INTERPRETER: Are there any more
2 subsistence comments?

3
4 MR. ANDREW: (In Yup'ik)

5
6 INTERPRETER: I'm John Andrew and I'm
7 coordinator for Yukon-Kuskokwim Delta Regional Council. We
8 all understand the customary trade. We understand the
9 customary trade for cash or for parts of fish or for other
10 resources. And the other is barter. We barter or trade
11 for other food items that are caught by the other people.
12 These customary and trade, barter/trade definitions are
13 brought to you so that if anything is not acceptable, there
14 should be recommendations to fix that. In the old days
15 they used to do these things. I just wanted to help you on
16 this.

17
18 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Mary?

19
20 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

21
22 INTERPRETER: I wanted to say something
23 about barter/trade, because I am a woman. I wanted to say
24 something about fish scales and also the fish skins,
25 because some ladies they have ways to make handicrafts for
26 sale, such as waterproof boots or other items. I don't
27 want this to be forgotten.

28
29 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Quyana, Mary. (In
30 Yup'ik)

31
32 INTERPRETER: Are there any more comments?
33 Are there any more comments or recommendations toward the
34 barter/trade or customary tradesman?

35
36 MR. ANDREW: John Jimmy.

37
38 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: (In Yup'ik)?

39
40 MR. ANDREW: John Jimmy.

41
42 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: John Jimmy.

43
44 MR. ANDREW: (In Yup'ik)

45
46 INTERPRETER: John Jimmy from Chefornak.

47
48 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

49
50 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: I turned it up now.

1 MR. JIMMY: (In Yup'ik)

2

3 INTERPRETER: I have some concern about
4 what was said, because I've been observing something from
5 our elders, including my parents toward the subsistence
6 resources, and we used to fish in Kuskokwim River. When we
7 became coastal people, when we moved to coastal village, we
8 want to harvest Kuskokwim fish and wildlife resources. I
9 don't want barter, trade, customary trade to be affected,
10 because I want that to be continued, because those of us
11 who are used to eating whitefish or other resources that
12 are harvested in tundra, we want to make sure that we want
13 to make it possible to trade some of that. Those of us who
14 live on the coast, we trade some of this with coastal
15 resources, such as seal oil. Sometimes we trade with cash.
16 A lot of these which were passed on from our elders. I
17 don't want any changes on these. I used to see -- I used
18 to observe my parents trading resources with other
19 villagers, and because there's no cash available at times,
20 I don't want -- I don't want anything changed. I want that
21 to be continued. If we do not barter, trade, customary
22 trade, it won't affect any communities, but if we change
23 that, it will be adversely affected to the users in the
24 community.

25

26 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Quyana.

27

28 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman?

29

30 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Lester?

31

32 MR. L. WILDE: According to this yellow
33 where it says council action at this time, I wonder if our
34 interpreter could interpret that portion right there, so
35 everybody understands exactly what is being discussed?

36

37 INTERPRETER: The whole thing?

38

39 MR. L. WILDE: Where it says council action
40 at this time, as indicated above? Councils are being asked
41 to assist with defining customary trade practices, excuse
42 me, for their region and identify any areas of concern.
43 Specifically federal subsistence staff need council members
44 to advise them on the appropriateness and definition of the
45 following terms as they may apply in their region.

46

47 INTERPRETER: Okay. Mr. Chairman?

48

49 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Go ahead, Alex Nick.

50

1 INTERPRETER: (In Yup'ik)

2

3 MR. NICK: The last sentence
4 (indiscernible). (In Yup'ik)

5

6 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Bill, go ahead.

7

8 MR. McCANN: (In Yup'ik)

9

10 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Robert?

11

12 MR. NICK: You're Ms. Armstrong? Yeah. I
13 will speak in English first. (In Yup'ik) I agree with Mr.
14 McCann, you know, I think the definitions here for us to
15 act on specific definitions above and beyond what we have
16 practiced before. It would be a little too hasty for us to
17 tell you, you know, what we want, you know, the definition
18 to be. And my comment was on, you know, if we allow for
19 commercialization of subsistence resources, then we'll open
20 up the door for anybody to try to make -- you know, to
21 commercialize our activity to survive. (In Yup'ik)

22

23 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: John Hanson?

24

25 MR. HANSON: (In Yup'ik)

26

27 INTERPRETER: John Hanson of Alakanak says
28 that there -- the document that we review, we need to be
29 very careful about making a big issue. If we are not
30 careful, we will open the door to people. The subsistence
31 activities will be taken as a tool to open -- rather open
32 an enterprise. In the Yukon River, these subsistence --
33 using the subsistence harvest as a tool in the Yukon, upper
34 Kuskokwim area, they sell a lot of salmon roe. And for
35 that reason some of our elders say that, you know, they're
36 using that as a tool to make that an enterprise. The
37 Indians in upper Kuskokwim -- rather upper Yukon River,
38 they use subsistence as a tool to make money from salmon
39 roe, but in the lower Yukon, we have a customary tradition,
40 we don't do -- we don't -- or we don't use cash to trade.

41

42 There's different ways that we handle some of this.
43 In the lower Yukon we make some handicrafts out of some of
44 the resources that we catch, inedible parts of the
45 resource, and then we use old fish and customary and
46 tradition to make -- to turn some of the subsistence-caught
47 resource into cash. We need to review this very carefully,
48 and we need to make a good decision.

49

50 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

1 MR. THOMPSON: Quyana.

2

3 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: John Thompson?

4

5 MR. THOMPSON: (In Yup'ik)

6

7 INTERPRETER: John Thompson says my
8 previous question, the part of the fish -- I need a better
9 definition on that, because maybe not only part of the
10 fish, but some other thing. This word part is too broad,
11 and it's -- it could open anything. We -- what parts of
12 the fish we'll be able to turn into cash, will be better if
13 we know what parts of the fish would be.

14

15 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: James?

16

17 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman, (In Yup'ik)

18

19 INTERPRETER: James Charles said that those
20 other two people said what he's supposed to say. Is to
21 fish for their own use. They used to sell -- they used to
22 sell salmon roe after they fish for their own people. They
23 used to be able to sell salmon roe for cash to the fish
24 processors. When it became a problem, they closed that.
25 There used to be a lot of people fishing more than what
26 they need during the subsistence fishing, during
27 summertime, and then they used to harvest salmon roe for
28 cash. Robert make me recall what used to happen a long
29 time ago, and that definition, the definition of where it
30 says fish or their parts is not a very good definition.

31

32 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

33

34 MR. SHARP: Once again my name is John
35 Sharp. Don't worry, I'm not going to raise hell. I will
36 speak both in English and Yup'ik.

37

38 Concerning this trade with our natural substance,
39 meat, seal oil, beluga, fish, indicating in this issue
40 there's going to be a problem. And the reason why I want
41 to speak against this, I'm not against it. It's the word
42 cash that I am against. For reasons, on grounds, today in
43 this very age we have alcohol problem, we have drug
44 problem. If this trade is being approved without consent
45 from the people, and our advisory here, I think we will
46 have a problem in the future. It's not just only alcohol
47 and drugs. There's also bingo and rippies going on in the
48 villages like right here. If there is no limit to this
49 trade concerning cash, we're going to have problem with our
50 young people, and you know we care for our young people.

1 (In Yup'ik) So that's my concern. It would be a problem
2 right now if we start using this trade for cash, because
3 especially I'm afraid for these alcohol and drugs, bingo
4 and rippies, and not use them for their children. We care
5 for our young people. I'm glad some of these people are
6 observing it very carefully, because we certainly don't
7 want our young people to get stuck with this and use it
8 indiscriminately (ph) in the near future. That's my
9 comment. Quyana.

10

11 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Quyana, Johnny. (In
12 Yup'ik)

13

14 INTERPRETER: The Chairman Wilde wanted the
15 council members to bring back this document and let the
16 elders give them advice before decision making -- made
17 rather, because we -- the council don't want to adopt a
18 regulation that might affect the people.

19

20 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Yeah, (In Yup'ik)

21

22 MR. ANDREW: Luke Amik.

23

24 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

25

26 MR. AMIK: Luke Amik from Kipnuk. He lives
27 in Kipnuk. I just wanted to comment, because I'm very
28 concerned about what I've been hearing about it, about the
29 customary and traditional trade. I used to be -- I
30 practiced in the customary trade since a long, long time
31 ago. What I don't want -- what I don't want to do is I
32 don't want anyone to change my way of life. And this is
33 related to subsistence regulations or subsistence way of
34 life. It's customary and tradition since a long time, to
35 do custom and trade -- customary and trade for food items.
36 But to make it into cash trade, it's not something that
37 will acceptable, because considering today's practices, if
38 you need to do commercial fishing, you need to obtain a
39 permit first. It might be like that in the future. It
40 would be better if we continue customary and traditional
41 trade, the practices -- that used to be practiced from a
42 long time instead of changing them today.

43

44 How is this going to be fixed? It is going to be
45 fixed by the caucasian people? Are we going to follow
46 what's being fixed by the caucasian people? I don't want
47 anyone to change the way, the practices that the Yup'ik
48 people follow from a long time to today. We must continue
49 how that it's being practiced.

50

1 This day and age I go upriver Kuskokwim, nowadays I
2 cannot even -- I can't even go upriver to upper Kuskokwim
3 to gather wood for fuel. Nowadays I buy that from other
4 people. Sometime I buy timber -- rather I buy wood for --
5 that I gathered from the Yukon River from one of the tundra
6 villages. What I do is I pay for all of that. In the old
7 days, there used to be no such thing as trading something
8 for cash. Just recently I started to see that someone
9 trades anything for cash, such as wood or other things.

10

11 It is okay for some people, you know, to go ahead
12 and to go trapping for barriers (ph), because it's legal
13 and it's accepted by the society. It's okay for people who
14 don't have job to trade furs for cash, but our ways, I want
15 people to continue Yup'ik way of life when consider trading
16 something for food. I don't want anyone to -- I don't want
17 to see anyone coming here and change that. I don't want to
18 follow someone else's -- someone else's advice. I want all
19 of you to understand that.

20

21 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Quyana. Robert Nick?

22

23 MR. NICK: (In Yup'ik)

24

25 INTERPRETER: He's going to translate his
26 own.

27

28 MR. NICK: Helen, in your flyer you state
29 that, however, neither legislative history, judicial
30 finding, nor regulations define significant commercial
31 enterprise or an allowable level of customary trade.
32 That's a big question there. There is no definition in
33 your books that you research, you know, that define what
34 would be the significant -- but still here the definition
35 that you're proposing for customary trade, you state that
36 trade of subsistence fish or parts for cash that does not
37 amount to a significant commercial enterprise. You're also
38 -- you're already using a nondefined, nondetermined limit
39 to this trade, which is -- I agree with everybody that
40 spoke that we should not at on this today, until we have,
41 you know touched base, you know, had a chance to study it
42 more, and then also with the Chairman's recommendation that
43 we bring it back to the councils, and then I would consider
44 that to be a very priority task for our RITs, refute
45 information technicians, the staff that -- in the Bethel
46 office and Togiak -- Dillingham office that can, you know,
47 relate the information out. So I was going to make a
48 motion, but leave -- with that, can I translate -- oh,
49 you'll translated it, yeah. Quyana.

50

1 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Go ahead, Lester?

2

3 MR. L. WILDE: I would like to have Robert
4 Nick also translate one other section to make sure that
5 everybody in here understands the over-all process and time
6 frame. We don't have to make a decision at this meeting.
7 Beginning with the fall of 1999, it states, regional
8 council, advisory council meeting, information will be
9 gathered to define regional customary trade practices and
10 identify any potential areas of concern. We're at the very
11 beginning, so we don't need to make a decision at this
12 time. Following this round of meetings, historic and
13 contemporary information on the exchange of subsistence cod
14 fish and salt fish will be sought, working with the
15 Subsistence Division of ADF&G and other organization. At
16 the winter 2000 council meeting, a progress report will be
17 provided and advice sought on the need for field
18 interviewing. By the fall of 2000 council meetings,
19 council members will be provided a draft report describing
20 regional customary trade practices for review.

21

22 I'm just trying to give the young lady over there a
23 hand I think. This should have been read along with -- and
24 understood before we even went into this discussion,
25 because we -- I think we got the wrong idea that we need to
26 make a decision on this at this time, but we don't.

27

28 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Robert?

29

30 MR. NICK: (In Yup'ik)

31

32 INTERPRETER: Yeah. Good.

33

34 MR. NICK: (In Yup'ik)

35

36 MS. GREGORY: Second.

37

38 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Robert Nick (In
39 Yup'ik).

40

41 INTERPRETER: Robert Nick moved to table
42 issue number 7, customary trade, identify region's specific
43 practices, to a later date. Maybe it would be better if I
44 could let him state his motion in English.

45

46 MR. LUPIE: (In Yup'ik)

47

48 INTERPRETER: Peter Lupie from Tuntatuliak
49 stated some of the -- I missed some of it, because I wasn't
50 aware he was recognized. He stated that the elders used to

1 give advice to continue Yup'ik way of life, and to continue
2 Yup'ik language. And he said that in -- what he said in
3 Yup'ik language, said -- he said that, but the caucasian
4 people came here and changed the ways of life, and tries to
5 change the ways of life. Elders advise us not to change,
6 try to continue Yup'ik traditions and customary practices,
7 and try to do the things that they say -- they do.

8

9 He said that he can't help but remember or recall
10 that the elders' advice was to always follow elders' advice
11 passed on from a long time ago to this day and age. Those
12 of you who are sitting here in the table, you are fluent in
13 English. You must assist us people who have limited
14 English or don't speak English at all to go to the right
15 avenue, go through the right avenue to continue with those
16 advice that elders gave.

17

18 The subsistence way of life is like money, like
19 money. Money and food is the same. We continue our
20 subsistence harvest of fish and wildlife resources, and we
21 live by it. In the old days -- in the old days there used
22 to be advice, a person must try to harvest fish and
23 wildlife resources in summertime. But then there's other
24 saying aside from that. If fish and wildlife resources
25 harvested don't have any supplements, excess (ph) money, it
26 will be gone in no time. So we -- you know, we have to
27 consider these things.

28

29 I don't -- I can't remember many things. If I was
30 listening to you from the beginning of this meeting, maybe
31 I would remember everything, but I missed out on the issues
32 or concerns that -- what you talked about. You must
33 remember what other people testified, including what the
34 elders said earlier. This is what I need to do, rather
35 this is all I've got.

36

37 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

38

39 COURT REPORTER: I'm sorry, Mr. Chair, I
40 don't think we got the motion of Mr. Nick?

41

42 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: That's what I'm trying
43 to do right now. I was asking comments earlier. If the
44 comments was -- that were come from.

45

46 COURT REPORTER: We got it in Yup'ik on the
47 record, Mr. Chairman, we.....

48

49 INTERPRETER: Yeah.

50

1 COURT REPORTER:didn't get it in
2 English.

3
4 INTERPRETER: I was saying that maybe
5 Robert should restate his motion in English, because I
6 couldn't put it.....

7
8 MR. NICK: I moved that the council not act
9 on any definition of the words, you know, that are
10 requested by Helen at this time, until we've had more time
11 to study, and I also indicated that traditional councils
12 and village councils be asked to comment on these, and I
13 also stated that, you know, maybe this could be attached
14 for the -- our bilingual employees.

15
16 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Any more discussion,
17 council?

18
19 MS. GREGORY: Question on the motion.

20
21 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: The question's been
22 called for. All who favor it, say aye?

23
24 IN UNISON: Aye.

25
26 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Opposed, say no?

27
28 (No opposing votes.)

29
30 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Motion carried.

31
32 MR. McCANN: Mr. Chairman, (In Yup'ik).
33 Roll call (In Yup'ik). It's too important. (In Yup'ik).

34
35 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Uh-huh.

36
37 MR. NICK: Mr. Chairman, that's in order.
38 We have a request for a roll call vote.

39
40 MR. McCANN: Roll call vote (In Yup'ik).

41
42 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Okay.

43
44 MR. McCANN: This is just like our money.

45
46 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: (In Yup'ik) Roll call
47 (In Yup'ik). Secretary George, roll call (In Yup'ik).

48
49 MR. GEORGE: Harry Wilde?

00105

1 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Yes.

2

3 MR. GEORGE: James Charles?

4

5 MR. CHARLES: Yes.

6

7 MR. GEORGE: John Hanson?

8

9 MR. HANSON: Yes.

10

11 MR. GEORGE: Mary Gregory?

12

13 MS. GREGORY: Yes.

14

15 MR. GEORGE: (In Yup'ik) Willard Church?

16 Willard (In Yup'ik). Billy McCann?

17

18 MR. McCANN: Yes.

19

20 MR. GEORGE: Robert Nick?

21

22 MR. NICK: Yes.

23

24 MR. GEORGE: Johnny Thompson?

25

26 MR. THOMPSON: Yes.

27

28 MR. GEORGE: Phillip Moses?

29

30 MR. MOSES: Yeah.

31

32 MR. GEORGE: Lester Wilde?

33

34 MR. L. WILDE: Yes.

35

36 MR. GEORGE: Alvin Oweltuck?

37

38 MR. OWELTUCK: Yes.

39

40 MR. GEORGE: Thadius Tikiun?

41

42 MR. TIKIUN: Yes.

43

44 MR. GEORGE: Mr. Chairman, (In Yup'ik).

45

46 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Yeah. Doy. (In

47 Yup'ik)

48

49 INTERPRETER: Ida Alexie's scheduled to
50 travel tonight for her home, and there's a message with the

00106

1 Alaska Department of Fish and Game.

2

3 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: I got a message for
4 Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Yukon River, if you got
5 your key, it look like fish. This is lost and found. If
6 you happen to have it, you could come over and.....

7

8 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (In Yup'ik)

9

10 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Oh, he won \$5. That's
11 what he won. Anna Mozel (ph), we're glad to have you here.

12

13 MS. MOZEL: (Indiscernible)

14

15 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Uh-huh. Ida?

16

17 COURT REPORTER: Sorry. I beg your
18 pardon. It's very difficult with all these mikes
19 (indiscernible). Okay.

20

21 MS. ALEXIE: Mr. Chairman, members of the
22 Federal Regional Advisory Council,.....

23

24 COURT REPORTER: Could you state your name
25 (indiscernible).

26

27 MS. ALEXIE: My name is Ida Alexie, I work
28 with Alaska Department of Fish and Game. I think I'll hold
29 this. I needed to do my report, because I have a meeting
30 with the Lower Kuskokwim Fish and Game Advisory Council on
31 Friday, and I need to get their travel ready tomorrow. I
32 have with me the state regulatory cycle from the year '97
33 to 2006, and I'll have -- I'll leave these here for the
34 council members. I also have an agenda change request that
35 the Board of Fisheries is going to be taking up on October
36 27 in Fairbanks, Arctic Salmon submitted an agenda change
37 request for fisheries, and I think Charlie's going to talk
38 about -- is Charlie going to talk about this?

39

40 MR. BURKEY: I hadn't planned on talking
41 about it.

42

43 MS. ALEXIE: Oh. (In Yup'ik)

44

45 INTERPRETER: Would like to make a change,
46 the fishery during the summer time, (indiscernible) support
47 (ph) the report to the advisory council. In Fairbanks at
48 the Board of Fish (indiscernible) present the
49 (indiscernible), then to change this request on the coho
50 salmon, that they were a lot less than (indiscernible).

1 Comanagement, there was a (indiscernible) was a management
2 and to be discussed with by the Fish and Game. And I will
3 leave behind the documentation. There's three proposals
4 from the State of Alaska, the ones they're going to be
5 discussing in Barrow on October 25 and 29, 1999.

6

7 There are nine proposals that are -- affect this
8 reason. The first one is regarding the beaver. The beaver
9 season will be open all year long, so the -- the lakes and
10 ponds that are -- the fish usually leave their eggs is
11 being spoiled by the animals. It is important if you talk
12 about -- whoever talks about the wildlife statements will
13 probably will touch up on that article. There needs to be
14 some comments.

15

16 The dates and -- of brown bear counting and there
17 were some things about caribou regarding the unit -- or
18 proposal 13 in -- relating to Unit 18, that (indiscernible)
19 change below Mountain Village. It needs to be reached or
20 changed in the regulations. And number 38 related to brown
21 bear sealing affect two villages, Iliamna, King Salmon may
22 be added to the list. And the U.S. Fish and Wildlife
23 Service are the ones that are over the activities in that
24 region. And number 48 is a proposal from Kwethluk, consent
25 of the board, jet -- no jet boats, would be discontinued to
26 be used, because in the areas where the fish spawn are
27 disturbed by the blower of the jet. And there are some
28 things that need to be ironed out regarding the boundary
29 lines in Game Management. It is not in these books, but it
30 will be under discussion, and try to come up with a number
31 for that regarding caribou in the Unit 18. If you're going
32 to have any comments, the advisory committee will have its
33 meeting. There are four in the region. The northern area
34 people met and they'll meet again in April 10th. April
35 10th the people around here will be.....

36

37 There -- this proposals can be submitted to the
38 Board of Fisheries before the April 10th, and all of you
39 can get together and make some requests for changes in the
40 regulations. It does not provide for this region for a
41 period and if decision made in April for changes, they will
42 have them made before April 10th. When are you going to
43 have your meeting in -- meeting in -- spring meeting?

44

45 MR. NICK: (In Yup'ik)

46

47 INTERPRETER: I think if I understood the
48 (indiscernible) meeting before April 10th meeting, discuss
49 it before April 10th.

50

1 MS. ALEXIE: Okay. April 10 (In Yup'ik).

2

3 INTERPRETER: Proposals (indiscernible),
4 the -- even before the April 10th, you as council,.....

5

6 MS. ALEXIE: Am I on?

7

8 INTERPRETER: Yes.

9

10 MS. ALEXIE: (In Yup'ik)

11

12 INTERPRETER: Make some -- if you want to
13 make some changes regarding the proposals, you can go as a
14 council member, make some -- make proposals to those
15 changes or the fax line either to me or Juneau, or fax
16 to.....

17

18 MS. ALEXIE: 465-6094. (In Yup'ik)

19

20 INTERPRETER: That's the fax number. And
21 regarding the reports, someone from Dillingham will be
22 discussing the reports which was -- they are digging up in
23 the Aniak area, because the fish are no longer there that
24 used to be there, so agenda change request. They have come
25 up with -- when the fish are spawning, the conditions
26 (indiscernible) alone. Because the sports (indiscernible)
27 take away. The hopes (ph) for some consensus
28 (indiscernible). That's all I have.

29

30 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Yeah, go ahead. Do it.

31

32 MR. EVANS: (In Yup'ik)

33

34 INTERPRETER: Charles Evans, Quinhagak.
35 Regardless of my uniform, I'm going to make some testimony.
36 We know, we fisherman, we have boundaries. When we fish,
37 the Quinhagak district opens first, the (indiscernible)
38 fish. How about the sport fisherman that is on the river?
39 There was a lot of them. How come there's no limit or
40 boundaries? Even fish at the lake of our river. Fishing
41 above the 3,000 sea level. From the airport to Quinhagak,
42 they fish all the river. Why do the commercial fisherman
43 have limit to fish, and how come the sports fishermens
44 don't have limit. Togiak (ph) use are having problem. He
45 would like to see some limits set on the sports fishing
46 area, not just the commercial fishermen. He would like you
47 to help them put some limits on the rivers, because they're
48 just playing with our source of food, the fish. When they
49 subsist, they notice that sports fishermen are still
50 fishing. He doesn't like to see people play with the fish

1 when they're trying to put up subsistence fish for the
2 winter. It shouldn't be happening that way.

3

4 Ever since I was a boy, my own people know me.
5 When I was a little boy, our river this time, the spawned-
6 out salmon used to cover all the sandbars, and you could
7 smell them, there were so many spawned-out silver salmon on
8 the river. In those, in my younger years, the white man
9 didn't used to come and hinder us in our subsistence fish.

10

11 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: (In Yup'ik).

12

13 INTERPRETER: The Chairman wants to follow
14 the agenda of the meeting. There's an action on
15 recommendation and meets on the November training.

16

17 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: November training is
18 agenda (In Yup'ik).

19

20 MR. ANDREW: Taylor.

21

22 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Taylor, you're in the
23 hot seat. Don't speak too much in Yup'ik.

24

25 MR. BRELSFORD: Quayana. Mr. Chairman, I
26 think we have some very important business to move on to,
27 so I'd like to be very quick. On the training agenda, we
28 have copies, but they're very difficult to read, because of
29 the fax machine. And I would like to ask if you would
30 appoint a little committee, subcommittee of two or three
31 representatives to work with us later on the training
32 agenda. I think that way we could get good input from this
33 council without taking a long time, and it's very difficult
34 to read our copies at this time. So if you would -- if you
35 think that's a good idea, maybe we could work with two or
36 three people after the meeting to -- as a subcommittee for
37 some input.

38

39 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: You need how many from
40 the council?

41

42 MR. THOMPSON: two or three.

43

44 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Two or three? You want
45 me or council appoint and recommend who will work with you
46 on this certain training issue part?

47

48 MR. BRELSFORD: Right. It might be good to
49 ask for volunteers.

50

00110

1 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Yeah. Who's volunteer
2 here in the council? John Hanson's volunteer, and I would
3 like to appoint one of our people from Quinhagak. I think
4 he's a pretty good (indiscernible). Willard?

5
6 MR. CHURCH: I'll accept your appointment.

7
8 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Okay.

9
10 MR. THOMPSON: Maybe one more.

11
12 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Robert Nick?

13
14 MR. NICK: I accept.

15
16 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Okay. You've got
17 three. Okay. Those are good understandable council.

18
19 MR. BRELSFORD: And if we could take a
20 minute on issue number 5 I think it was?

21
22 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Issue five, regional
23 council structure.

24
25 MR. BRELSFORD: I think we talked about
26 most of what's on the paper already this morning about
27 looking at a way for the three regional councils on the
28 Yukon River to work together, and if you look on the back
29 side, you see little diagrams. I mentioned three different
30 ideas about how to work together with those councils. So
31 if you -- I don't think there's any more presentation at
32 this time. If you have any other comments to offer now, I
33 can write them down, or this will again be an object -- a
34 subject when you meet with the other regional council
35 members at training in January. You would actually have a
36 chance to talk with the members from the Western Interior
37 Council and the Eastern Interior Council, and you guys
38 could come up with a joint recommendation among the
39 councils. We're just starting this decision now asking for
40 input. You don't have to make a final recommendation
41 today. You could offer some more comments or call us
42 later. And then in January really talk together with the
43 other councils. And during your winter meeting in
44 February, that's when we need a final recommendation from
45 you.

46
47 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: So?

48
49 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: That's all I have.

50

00111

1 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: You just give us
2 information. That's information right now? We don't have
3 to take no action on it?

4
5 MR. ANDREW: No.

6
7 MR. BRELSFORD: Okay. And there's actually
8 some follow-up telephone numbers if you think of ideas you
9 want to call and talk about. Those numbers are at the
10 bottom of the page. So to be brief today.....

11
12 MR. NICK: Stand by, Taylor, you're using
13 the first one right now today?

14
15 MR. BRELSFORD: You're looking.....

16
17 MR. NICK: Yeah.

18
19 MR. BRELSFORD:at the example, case-
20 by-case.....

21
22 MR. NICK: Yeah.

23
24 MR. BRELSFORD:consultation?

25
26 MR. NICK: That's what's -- what are you
27 using today?

28
29 MR. BRELSFORD: That's what we've been
30 using for the last nine years.

31
32 MR. NICK: Yeah.

33
34 MR. BRELSFORD: Two councils could meet
35 together when they have an overlap issue. That would be
36 what we've done on wildlife programs.....

37
38 MR. NICK: Yeah.

39
40 MR. BRELSFORD:so far.

41
42 MR. NICK: So what -- so the practice up
43 till today is case-by-case?

44
45 MR. BRELSFORD: Correct.

46
47 MR. NICK: Yeah.

48
49 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Quyana.

50

1 MR. BRELSFORD: Thank you.

2
3 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Yeah, next on our
4 agenda is reports, nine, item nine.

5
6 INTERPRETER: Reports, number nine, annual
7 regulatory process.

8
9 MR. ANDREW: (In Yup'ik)

10
11 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

12
13 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, on our agenda
14 under item C we had one wolves, two caribou, under comments
15 and recommendations that were put on the agenda yesterday
16 by who? Somebody mentioned wanting to talk about wolves,
17 and one other council members mentioned something about
18 talking about caribou. Those were placed under item C.

19
20 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Yeah.

21
22 MR. GEORGE: Mr. Chairman? (In Yup'ik)

23
24 INTERPRETER: Secretary, (In Yup'ik). This
25 year the wolf problem, while they're hunting the caribous,
26 they see the tracks, and they hear the wolves in the night
27 howling. The last two years observing -- observed a female
28 caribou driven down to the river, noticed that the wolf
29 killed a female caribou on the river by biting them on the
30 throat. It seemed like that's what they're doing to our
31 caribous. The wolves are killing our caribous. And moose.
32 It seemed like if we didn't do anything, making the people
33 who are in charge of the lands must become aware of these.
34 Otherwise if we don't do anything, it might lead to no more
35 caribou in that unit. As the number of wolves increase,
36 they only eat the tongue and the tentacles (ph) of the
37 caribou. That's how the wolves eat. Just playing around
38 with them. He's thinking of -- wants to -- I think he's
39 talking about an elder here that hunted caribou for this
40 person, and he doesn't like that idea.

41
42 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: James?

43
44 INTERPRETER: The Chair calls on James
45 Charles.

46
47 MR. CHARLES: Mr. Chairman, quyana.

48
49 INTERPRETER: We haven't had any wolf
50 problems, but last week when I went up subsistence fishing

1 upon the Kuskokwim, close to the Eek area, he saw caribou,
2 not too many of them, maybe about 50, he could see from his
3 village. And somebody told him about the caribous, there
4 are four wolves around the caribou that he saw. And
5 there's caribou in the Kilbuck Mountain ranges. Fritz
6 George wants what George is considering about the wolf
7 problems in the region around here. He wants to do
8 something about them. In the regulations, in trapping,
9 maybe the only trap, that was not shoot them in the
10 regulations.

11

12 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

13

14 INTERPRETER: The Chairman, they're on
15 another part of the agenda. So it -- he likes the idea,
16 wants to follow the agenda, and when it comes to them, he
17 will deal with it. They're on agenda number nine. The
18 Chair is on the agenda to make a report.

19

20 He was at a meeting in the spring. This council
21 had the report. Almost 20. He only wrote his own report,
22 so he's able to read it by himself. His back is hurting,
23 so he's standing up to make the report.

24

25 This advisory council in the meeting, May 2
26 meeting, last may, almost 20 members. Bill Thomas was the
27 narrator when they began the meeting May 2 in the morning,
28 and then the -- they worked on communication and the
29 councils' stipends, about comanagement for customary and
30 trade. They accepted the reports last night at the last
31 meeting. Federal subsistence fisheries was also, and also
32 (indiscernible), hunting designation. Communication, the
33 chairmen, we need to work together. What is the problem to
34 our -- what's touching the people.

35

36 The stipend. Stipend is what was talked about.
37 Wanted to get stipends when they hold meetings, and
38 increase the stipends during this kind of meeting.

39

40 Comanagement, Eastern Interior proposal. They
41 didn't understand the -- they didn't understand what
42 comanagement means. There was a proposal to understand.
43 Since it wasn't understood, they wanted the agencies to
44 know more about comanagement, to work on land issues. They
45 followed a recommendation of those who work to managing the
46 land. And then it was given, they more understandable.

47

48 One of the chairmen state shouldn't in this
49 comanagement, but federal/tribal unless there's federal,
50 tribal and state. The State does not recognize the tribal

1 traditional council government systems in (indiscernible).

2

3 Number 4, customary and trade issue. The council
4 chairmen -- his mind is mixed up concerning the customary
5 trade issue. ANILCA Title VIII should follow -- they tried
6 to follow that, to go in that direction.

7

8 Those are the main issues. Federal subsistence
9 fishery is that we (indiscernible) didn't in this business
10 on federal takeover of our subsistence management. Since
11 it wasn't taken over by the federal government, we didn't
12 have to make any actions.

13

14 False Pass, they can fish down there, that they're
15 taking fish that are supposed to come to our rivers. They
16 didn't want to -- they just had a discussion about it.

17

18 Adak subsistence, wanted to hunt, but the chair of
19 that didn't accomplish anything.

20

21 The regional -- on May 3, the next day. During the
22 meeting they talked about -- oh. They talked about
23 increasing the -- a -- while they were meeting, somebody
24 said to the Chairman, we should -- Secretary should send a
25 letter, should start getting the money to work towards
26 managing our subsistence management. On the next day, on
27 the 5th, that letter was going to be signed by the chair of
28 the council. In that night I didn't say anything. I
29 couldn't sleep. The coun -- they didn't want to influence
30 the council. He couldn't sleep about the money that they
31 would like, about raising their stipends. And the letter
32 was signed by the Chairman. The signed -- he didn't sign
33 that. And then he couldn't ask me, he wanted to know, how
34 come you didn't sign? I promised Kola Maloe (ph) that's
35 22, I remember I -- neutrality (ph) or so he doesn't want
36 to pay somebody to pay for subsistence. I wasn't told on
37 subsistence that would -- to the hungry, for the sake of
38 the stomach. And that he hate to take Secretary's letter.
39 He didn't sign the letter to the Secretary. He do not know
40 me. I am 12 years old, my parents passed away. Trying to
41 survive, trying to provide for their clothing, provide for
42 the food. I'm saying this, I didn't sign this, just
43 because to me -- because I -- he's remembering the people,
44 representing his own people, he didn't sign it, because
45 he's representing the people. He doesn't want to say,
46 doesn't -- it's enough to sitting (ph), getting a raise in
47 his stipend, but he's more concerned about the children who
48 are in need. He wants to help them, and -- (In Yup'ik).

49

50 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: I think that's the way

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1 that -- (In Yup'ik). And I think that's the way that my
2 written note or letter to Chair of Subsistence Board
3 Chairman. I think I tried to make it understand. (In
4 Yup'ik).

5
6 INTERPRETER: He gave a written notice of
7 why he didn't sign that letter, whatever he's trying to do
8 for subsistence use, no money will pay for. The reason why
9 he's here from -- he doesn't have parents to teach him,
10 only those who cared for him have taught him to -- while
11 working on the subsistence issue, we should depend on our
12 elders during our work session. Quyana.

13
14 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Quyana. (In Yup'ik).

15
16 INTERPRETER: It's under B.

17
18 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Regional Council
19 members reports and concerns, information exchange, meaning
20 information about subsistence issues, concern affecting the
21 region. State, local and fish and game advisory meetings,
22 tribal, village council meeting. Who's going to take that?
23 Here?

24
25 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (In Yup'ik)?

26
27 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Yeah.

28
29 MS. GREGORY: Council members.

30
31 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, I met with our
32 traditional council before I left Hooper Bay, and they
33 wanted me to extend a thank you to the rest of the regional
34 council for their support in getting them on the t&c for
35 the caribou in twenty- -- what is that, Harry, 21? In 21.
36 And they wanted to -- they told me to thank you in person
37 for their -- your support in helping them obtaining their
38 t&c. That's my message from Hooper Bay Traditional Council
39 to you guys.

40
41 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Robert?

42
43 MR. NICK: (In Yup'ik)

44
45 INTERPRETER: He's going to say something
46 about what he understood, what the council members are
47 going to say about their concern. Something about the
48 caribou should be mentioned, and he mentioned that at this
49 time. John Nick last week AVCP Council invited to talk to
50 them, presidents and the delegates. He went up as an -- he

1 was invited. he decided to talk about subsistence. I was
2 thinking our agency wants to gather information from Fish
3 and Wildlife. Seemed that the traditional customary use,
4 it has a better ending. We shouldn't go to the agencies,
5 since customary and traditional use are in these heads. So
6 -- and he touched upon these issue while they were having
7 this meeting. He wanted to share this information with the
8 council. And AVCP, there's a lot of things, even Calista
9 Corporation and AVCP, but this council is the spearhead of
10 this subsistence issue. This is going to be the -- a
11 strong spearhead for subsistence way of life.

12
13 When I got ready, I looked up in the dictionary at
14 LKSD office, they have Yup'ik bilingual dictionary. I
15 borrowed the Yup'ik dictionary. They're pretty thick.
16 White man in Fairbanks publish those. He -- I think they
17 will listen to me more if I use the traditional dialect.
18 Gukwiak (ph), he wanted to find that. He didn't find that
19 word in the Yup'ik dictionary. And gukwiak means way of
20 getting our subsistence food. And he wanted to share this
21 -- his way of gathering information.

22
23 I have more to say, but I'm going to wait until we
24 come to the agenda item.

25
26 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Billy?

27
28 INTERPRETER: The Chairman calls on Billy.

29
30 MR. McCANN: (In Yup'ik)

31
32 INTERPRETER: He supports John Nick's
33 sharing of information. The AVCP didn't really accept him
34 since he was on the council. He -- since this is on
35 subsistence issue, corporation land, they wanted to use
36 caribou for their task (ph) development. The resources of
37 our subsistence shouldn't be a conflict, since this is our
38 subsistence way of life. The village corporations
39 (indiscernible) to overuse their power, that is also --
40 have to be careful on how you deal with your own land and
41 your own village lands. I have to work under -- I have to
42 work with AVCP or Calista Corporation. The land resources,
43 wants to share. He mentioned about the wolf control,
44 caribou. He's reiterating, you know, the problem of the
45 wolf is just eating the tongue and (indiscernible). He's
46 not very hungry, he's just -- he gets satisfied with just
47 the tongue and the genital. That is done just on purpose,
48 trying to calm the people down who are (indiscernible) for
49 subsistence. Caribou are in the upper part of the refuge
50 are now supporting the wolves. And.....

1 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Mary?

2

3 INTERPRETER: The Chair calls on Mary
4 Gregory.

5

6 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

7

8 INTERPRETER: She likes our rural priority.
9 She has a concern in the people in the cities, people who
10 are like us. Is concerned about what is going to be done
11 with our own people in the big cities, in Anchorage,
12 Juneau, Fairbanks. That works in Anchorage,
13 overpopulation, they're trying to use like the people seen
14 controlling the geese eggs, why shouldn't they let the
15 native peoples of Alaska be involved in controlling the
16 population?

17

18 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Willard?

19

20 INTERPRETER: The chair calls on Willard.

21

22 MR. CHURCH: Yeah, I wanted to mention to
23 the council about an incident that happened this summer on
24 our river. There was some young people fishing with a rod
25 and reel for subsistence, fishing for king salmon. They
26 were given citations from the enforcement officers, because
27 they did not have a sport fishing license, or king salmon
28 tags. But to the young people and to their families, they
29 were fishing for food for that day. You know, as we've
30 evolved as a people, we've adopted different tools for
31 subsistence activities. We use different tools to harvest.
32 The fishing rod is a tool that we use for subsistence
33 today. Many people are -- recognize that in our native
34 communities. And I think it's time that the State
35 Department of Fish and Game recognize that also. We have
36 adopted this tool to use, and we'll continue to use that
37 tool. And it's not good when our young people go out and
38 do what they need to do in order to provide food for
39 themselves, and be given citations because they don't
40 follow this other law that says when you have this tool,
41 you are sport fishing. You know, to me that's not right.
42 And I think there needs to be some support from the council
43 here to petition the State Department of Fish and Game to
44 recognize that that fishing rod is a subsistence tool used
45 by our native people in our villages. Doy.

46

47 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

48

49 MR. ANDREW: John Thompson.

50

1 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: John Thompson?

2

3 MR. THOMPSON: (In Yup'ik)

4

5 INTERPRETER: John Thompson, Sr., from St.
6 Mary's is going to talk about what's been talked about
7 already. You -- he's going to repeat to our -- to the
8 young managers. In those days when we had -- were herding
9 reindeer, the native people helped manage them, they took
10 care of them. They followed the herd, they took real good
11 care of them. He doesn't like the idea of managing the
12 caribous using aircraft to -- disturbing and -- without
13 wild animals, we will -- he doesn't like that idea of the
14 caribous being herded against their will to a grazing area.
15 To those of you who are young, the Bethel herd, those who
16 herded them retired. That's how many herds were herded.
17 Since the herd disappeared, I think the herd has regrown
18 back, so they're starting to come back since their food has
19 been restored. In those days they were overgrazed. He
20 remembers -- it would be better if the managers do not
21 disturb. Let caribous graze where they want to graze, the
22 creator is leading them, but if the creator doesn't want
23 them to be grazing, and the creator could let them
24 disappear just like our herds of long ago.

25

26 Our subsistence does not -- it's been carried on
27 from our ancestors not to make issues out of our
28 subsistence resources. Right now in his area he only hunt
29 only what they need. The relatives only hunted together,
30 but nowadays once a year, they only -- we only hunt once a
31 year. Looking for and -- that's all I've got to say right
32 now, for subsistence, they should be very careful on how
33 they manage the wildlife without disturbing it.

34

35 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Fritz George?

36

37 MR. GEORGE: (In Yup'ik)

38

39 INTERPRETER: Fritz George wants to add --
40 he's from Akiachak. The hunters when they return, they
41 talk about helicopters, they herd -- they're harassing the
42 caribou towards the mountains. And he saw one around
43 Tuluksak. He saw a helicopter chasing the caribous towards
44 -- to the mountain ranges. A white helicopter with two
45 people on it with pontoon. It could land on water. He saw
46 two (ph) aircraft with black stripes. Are our managers
47 aware of these things? They're -- it's one of their duties
48 to do that. If they're going to do it, they should --
49 people are getting fed up with what's going on, because
50 they are chasing the food away from -- the choppers or the

1 planes chasing. There's a lot of caribou. We know that by
2 their tracks, but they're being chased towards the money.

3

4 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

5

6 INTERPRETER: The Chairman is.....

7

8 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Agencies report,
9 briefing and agency concern. Issues relating to
10 subsistence use and wildlife resource, includes status and
11 wildlife population update, report, one, Fish and Wildlife
12 Service, statewide and refuge. Paul Liedberg.

13

14 MR. McCANN: How about a break?

15

16 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: You want a break?
17 Okay. We'll have a break. Ten minutes break.

18

19 (Off record)

20

21 (On record)

22

23 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Update on Migratory
24 Bird Treaty amendments and new regulatory.

25

26 MR. ANDREW: Taylor Brelsford?

27

28 MR. BRELSFORD: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
29 Unfortunately Mimi Hogan was not able to join us. I know
30 she was planning to. I think she was last seen at
31 Tuntutuliak, but I did make this presentation in Naknek
32 last week, so I'll try and do my best today.

33

34 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: (In Yup'ik) Go ahead.

35

36 MR. BRELSFORD: That's just what I was
37 going to say. This is a continuing discussion with the
38 regional councils. You have heard about the treaty
39 amendments with Canada, and the fact that the United States
40 Senate ratified these changes, so now this is finished.
41 It's fixed. The changes in the treaty are concluded, and
42 now we move forward to implementing those changes. So on
43 the first page here, you'll see a very quick summary of
44 changes from the treaty in the middle. These new
45 amendments would authorize the Fish and Wildlife Service to
46 open legal regulated spring and summer subsistence harvests
47 of migratory birds in Alaska. That's the first time since
48 the early 1900s, and it's been a long and very important
49 effort by people from the villages to achieve that change.

50

1 What we're going to talk about now is the second
2 one, the amendment calls for forming management bodies with
3 native, federal and State of Alaska representatives as
4 equal partners. The role of those management bodies will
5 include being involved in all aspects of migratory bird
6 management, including recommending rules for subsistence
7 harvest, population and harvest monitoring projects,
8 research and the use of traditional knowledge, and
9 protection of habitat.

10
11 Many people have been involved in developing some
12 ideas on management bodies. The Native Migratory Bird
13 Working Group, the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, and
14 the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service held public meetings in
15 nine Alaska communities last year to get beginning ideas
16 for these management bodies. Earlier this summer a draft
17 document with four models was sent out to more than 1200
18 persons and organizations for review and comment. The
19 comment period originally was going to end on September
20 30th, but that has been extended until the end of the
21 regional council meetings, so your recommendations would be
22 on time if you have some suggestions today. The deadline
23 is later so that you could give your views.

24
25 Once -- this draft document has four models based
26 on comments from the public meetings. The regional
27 director of the Fish and Wildlife Service, that's Dave
28 Allen, who also serves as the Board member on the
29 Subsistence Board for Fish and Wildlife, he's the person
30 responsible for the final decision, choosing one of these
31 four models or a modification of those four models based on
32 the comments that come in. The goal is to have those
33 management bodies running, up and running by early 2000,
34 and to have the hunting regulations, the legal spring and
35 summer hunting regulations in place by the spring of 2001.

36
37 The rest of this emphasizes that the reason it's
38 important to talk with the regional councils is because one
39 of these four models is based on using the regional
40 councils as the management bodies. So I just want to make
41 a few quick comments on each of the four of those, and then
42 we'll stop and take comments.

43
44 So if you turn the page, a couple pages, you'll see
45 a map number 1 in Alaska, and this model is one statewide
46 body. You can see the list of organizations that would
47 cooperate. These are the regional tribal associations,
48 like AVCP in this region, or Bristol Bay Native Association
49 in Bristol Bay. Twelve of those regional tribal
50 associations would have one representative each. There

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1 would be -- if you look down, three federal
2 representatives, and three state representatives. If you
3 look at those arrows, you could see that this management
4 body is going to be making recommendations to the Fish and
5 Wildlife Service regulations committee, and then on the
6 other side, they would also make recommendations to the
7 flyway councils.

8

9 On the next page, model number 2, -- should I stop
10 for questions, Mr. Chair?

11

12 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Yeah, okay. Nick?

13

14 MR. NICK: Taylor, I have a question on
15 model 1. That is how the current AFN resource committee
16 system is set up? AFN, the regional associations and then
17 the villages, is that what -- what you were.....

18

19 MR. BRELSFORD: That would be true.....

20

21 MR. NICK:looking at?

22

23 MR. BRELSFORD: That would be true for the
24 native organization side.....

25

26 MR. NICK: Right.

27

28 MR. BRELSFORD:of this. In addition
29 there would be the three federal representatives and the
30 three state representatives.

31

32 MR. NICK: Uh-huh.

33

34 MR. BRELSFORD: These management bodies
35 will have three big groups, state, federal and native
36 organizations together.

37

38 MR. NICK: The reason I point this out is
39 in the current system that AFN uses, I don't see my village
40 involved anywhere at all.

41

42 MR. BRELSFORD: So that would be a concern
43 about model number 1?

44

45 MR. NICK: That's right. Correct.

46

47 MR. BRELSFORD: In model number 2, you'll
48 see some familiar names. This again would be one statewide
49 body, management body, but it would be made up of the ten
50 regional advisory councils. So one representative from the

1 Y-K council, and one representative from each of the other
2 councils would work, that would make ten native
3 representatives, then two federal management
4 representatives, and two state representatives altogether.
5 That's the idea of model number 2.

6

7 Model number 3.

8

9 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Are there any questions
10 for model number 2? (In Yup'ik) Council? Go ahead.

11

12 MR. BRELSFORD: Model number 3 starts to
13 have more regional focus, not just one statewide body, but
14 many regional bodies. So there's seven regional bodies
15 total. These correspond -- they're pretty close to the
16 regional council boundaries, but some of them are grouped
17 together. Like if you look in the north part of the state,
18 you would see Northwest Arctic and North Slope, they would
19 be grouped together, or in the Interior of the state,
20 Western Interior and Eastern Interior would be grouped
21 together. So all in all, there would be seven regional
22 management bodies. They would have state, federal and
23 native representation, and the details are shown in that
24 diagram.

25

26 Then the fourth one, the last one, is again an idea
27 of regional bodies, not just one statewide, but there would
28 be three organizations total. One in the south, one in the
29 west and one in the interior and north. And if you look in
30 the text, you could see that this would again take
31 representatives from the regional tribal associations, so
32 in Western Alaska, that would include the Aleutian/Pribilof
33 Islands Association, Association of Village Council
34 Presidents, Bristol Bay, Kodiak Area Native Association,
35 and Kawerak in Norton Sound Area.

36

37 So those are the four examples that went out for
38 some review and comments from the communities. You can see
39 that they are kind of a balance between a big organization
40 that would be easier to run. One statewide group is easier
41 than seven, but at the same time, some of the other
42 examples try to be more of a grass roots. They go down to
43 more of a regional approach. So that's one way to look at
44 the differences between them.

45

46 A few things to keep in mind about model number 2,
47 working with the regional councils. Your job now is to
48 work with Title VIII of ANILCA, the federal subsistence
49 program on the federal lands. And if you were to work on
50 the migratory bird management program, it would be with a

1 different legal structure. It comes from the migratory
2 bird treaties, and the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. So it
3 would be very important to keep separate the role and
4 responsibility of the regional council when you're working
5 on Title VIII of ANILCA, or separately when you would be
6 working under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. And you may
7 have some thoughts about workload. The regional councils
8 are just now starting to take up responsibility on
9 fisheries. This may double the responsibility that you
10 already have from just wildlife to adding fisheries. It
11 could be pretty busy in the next few years with the
12 fisheries program, and so adding migratory birds would be
13 adding yet again on top of your new responsibilities.

14
15 So let me stop there and see if there are any
16 questions or comments, any input that your council would
17 have, and we would like to add for a resolution, a
18 recommendation on this item if you are ready to make a
19 formal action.

20
21 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Questions, comments
22 from council? Thadius?

23
24 MR. TIKIUN: Taylor, how long did you say
25 we had on this one here?

26
27 MR. BRELSFORD: The deadline is very soon.
28 It's.....

29
30 MR. TIKIUN: I mean, how soon is very soon?

31
32 MR. BRELSFORD: The end of October.

33
34 MR. TIKIUN: The end of October. Okay.

35
36 MR. ABRAHAM: Mr. Chairman, can I ask from
37 the floor?

38
39 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Pete Abraham, go ahead?

40
41 MR. ABRAHAM: Can I ask you about
42 particular items over here?

43
44 MR. BRELSFORD: Yeah, but then you've got
45 to help me answer it, Pete.

46
47 MR. ABRAHAM: My question is what is the
48 voting power on those three groups, by numbers or by
49 regions? How do you balance it out on the.....

1 MR. BRELSFORD: The -- there's some
2 discussion about how that would work. The main goal is to
3 have consensus where the solutions would be shared. People
4 could work out a common approach to management. There's
5 different -- no final decision has been made on the voting
6 procedures, so they're still in discussion. I know this
7 goal about consensus is very important. Then there's some
8 other ideas about equal voting on each party, that the
9 federal party would have a vote, the native party would
10 have a vote, the state party would have a vote, equal.
11 Three different parties with equal votes. And finally I
12 know that the Native Migratory Bird Working Group would
13 like two equal votes, state and federal governments
14 together have one vote, and the native parties together
15 would have one vote. Equal that way. But no final
16 decision has been made about that. It would be part of the
17 operation manual, the procedures manual that would be
18 prepared after the choice about which management body
19 approach.

20
21 MR. ABRAHAM: Okay. Quyana.

22
23 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Does that answer your
24 question? Lester?

25
26 MR. L. WILDE: Taylor, in model number 3,
27 the state of Alaska is divided into six or seven different
28 districts, and I notice in our area, if we were to go with
29 model number 3, would be area four? And according to the
30 structure of the panel or whatever it's going to be called
31 in area number 4, you'd have two federal, ten native, and
32 two state. I'm wondering what those ten native would be?
33 What it would consist of in that area number 4?

34
35 MR. BRELSFORD: My understanding is that
36 the goal in number 3 would be to include the WCCs, the
37 Waterfowl Conservation Committees in the AVCP region. So I
38 believe the ten corresponds to the board for the WCC. I'm
39 not con- -- I don't have an exact -- I don't have a
40 complete answer about it, but I do know this one was try --
41 in -- within the state we're trying to include some
42 relationship to the Waterfowl Conservation Committees, and
43 it looks to me like this would be the model where they were
44 doing that.

45
46 MR. L. WILDE: Well, I kind of have a
47 tendency to go towards model number 3 because of the areas
48 that are being represented by the numbers. The areas -- if
49 you take -- if you cut the -- if you make the areas too
50 wide, we have a tendency to have two different clashes of

1 subsistence lifestyles, or native groups that are not
2 always in agreement, or in their daily.....

3

4 MS. GREGORY: (Indiscernible)

5

6 MR. L. WILDE:daily subsistence
7 lifestyle I guess is what I'm really trying to -- in my
8 mind trying to get. I've got -- that the model number 3
9 seems to divide the state closer to ethnic and subsistence
10 lifestyle groups, whereas the other -- the other models
11 don't seem to have as much representative of one area. The
12 representation is stretched out a lot more.

13

14 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Robert? Robert Nick?

15

16 MR. NICK: Quyana. Taylor, (In Yup'ik)

17

18 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

19

20 MR. NICK: Yeah. (In Yup'ik) Oh. Taylor,
21 I first -- I expressed my concerns about model one. That
22 is the structure that AFN, the resources committee, whereby
23 the member is someone from AVCP. And I have concerns about
24 it.

25

26 And I also have concerns about number four where we
27 are lumped in with the Aleutian Chain, Kodiak, and Bristol
28 Bay. We know that the last two years there's efforts down
29 in the Aleutian Chain where they want to make a road
30 through the middle of our -- the wintering grounds of one
31 of our geese species, so I think we'll have some
32 disagreements, and we also are -- have -- are competing for
33 the same fish species, so I think there will be major
34 concerns there. So I would, myself, would eliminate number
35 three and number -- or number one and number four.

36

37 And then number two also I have concerns with it.
38 And then the reason why I have concerns with number two is
39 that we already have a committee in place, the Waterfowl
40 Conservation Committee, WCC, it's been in existence for
41 quite a while I think, if I remember my history correctly.
42 And I think they know more about the waterfowl of the area
43 than I do. And then I think we -- this committee here is
44 going to be overwhelmed with subsistence issues, you know,
45 in the fisheries and the game.

46

47 So I prefer -- I would prefer to have the Waterfowl
48 -- the more input from the Waterfowl Conservation
49 Committee. So that leads me to number 3, and I agree with
50 Leslie that.....

1 MR. L. WILDE: Lester.

2

3 MR. NICK: Lester. Lester. I -- my -- I
4 have another friend named Leslie Marshall, so I -- I went
5 to high school with both of them, so I get confused
6 sometimes, but I get corrected. When I call the other
7 person Lester, he says Leslie.

8

9 So I agree with Lester than number 3 I think is --
10 could be a more appropriate model to use, because of the
11 existence of the Waterfowl Conservation Committee, and then
12 that committee has a lot of input from our regional
13 association, the AVCP. So with that, I move that we go
14 with model number 3.

15

16 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

17

18 MR. NICK: (In Yup'ik)

19

20 MR. L. WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

21

22 MR. NICK: (In Yup'ik) Am I in order, Mr.
23 Chairman?

24

25 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Yeah.

26

27 MR. NICK: I move that we accept model
28 number 3.

29

30 MR. HANSON: Second it for discussion.

31

32 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Robert Nick make a
33 motion to accept model three. And it's seconded by John
34 Hansen.

35

36 MR. ANDREW: (In Yup'ik)

37

38 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Michelle, you want to
39 say something?

40

41 MS. SPARCK: Yeah, I wanted to must point
42 out the differences between number -- model number 3 and
43 model number 4. I had worked with WCC and the Alaska
44 Native Migratory Bird Working Group, and with Fish and
45 Wildlife in trying to develop these different models.
46 Because of their processes, they wanted different models so
47 that it would make all stakeholders happy in how we choose
48 which group of management we go through. The vice chairman
49 pretty much accurately described how we feel about model
50 one and model two, but on model three and model four --

1 model three is based off of a WCC concept. A lot of the
2 other regional groups took note of how WCC has been working
3 for over 20 years on the -- on our -- on integrating our
4 subsistence concepts of management in with the hunting
5 regulations that were brought up by the feds and the state.
6 So that's one thing that AVCP and WCC appreciate is model
7 number 3.

8

9 And the reason why model number 4 exists is because
10 each of these number 1, number 2, number 3 regions that are
11 highlighted represents the species of birds that belong to
12 a flyway. That means, you know, our emperors and our
13 cacklers, you know, they all belong to the Pacific Flyway,
14 so when they're done with -- when they come to us, they've
15 come from the West Coast, or when they leave us, you know,
16 they go back down there. With the exception of our black
17 brandt, if they don't nest and they go up to the North
18 Slope Region. And that's why we would have concern with
19 what happens in the North Slope region. With the Aleutian
20 Islands, which Mr. Nick had mentioned before, we were
21 concerned about the road, because it was going through a
22 feeding area for when our emperor and our cacklers were
23 coming back up, they would stop in the Izembek region and
24 feed, get enough energy to complete their trip to our delta
25 and to nest.

26

27 The reason why -- I mean, we would have
28 difficulties in model number 4 in our annual meetings or
29 however often we'd meet because of species competitions or
30 disagreements we have with either fish or feathers, but
31 also it would also make the Aleutians realize that they
32 have to talk with us in regard to management. So -- the
33 North Slope has been very courteous to us. They have been
34 trying to accommodate WCC concerns about our molting geese
35 in the Petroleum Reserve area, so that's -- I just wanted
36 to point how WCC has been involved in model three and model
37 number 4.

38

39 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

40

41 INTERPRETER: This little lady that has
42 just give us a presentation, she is the daughter of the
43 late Harold Sparck of Bethel. So leading to any other
44 comments towards what -- model three?

45

46 MR. NICK: (In Yup'ik) Michelle, on your
47 description of problems with one and two reminds me of the
48 ptarmigan, you know, because they're a flyway species. The
49 ptarmigan, you know, in the tundra, when it gets to my
50 territory, my hunting area, it's called kongkete (ph), so

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1 we all hunt it. Then when I pass Nonvukvuk (ph) Lake, it's
2 no longer kongkete, it's called agzeak (ph), so it's a
3 flyway.

4

5 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: If there's some more
6 discussion from council?

7

8 MR. HANSON: Question.

9

10 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Question been called
11 for. I'll request for roll call.

12

13 MR. GEORGE: Harry Wilde?

14

15 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Yeah.

16

17 MR. GEORGE: James Charles?

18

19 MR. CHARLES: Yes.

20

21 MR. GEORGE: John Hanson?

22

23 MR. HANSON: Yes.

24

25 MR. GEORGE: Mary Gregory?

26

27 MS. GREGORY: Yes.

28

29 MR. GEORGE: (Indiscernible) Willard
30 Church?

31

32 MR. CHURCH: Yes.

33

34 MR. GEORGE: Billy McCann?

35

36 MR. McCANN: Yes.

37

38 MR. GEORGE: Robert Nick?

39

40 MR. NICK: Yes.

41

42 MR. GEORGE: Johnny Thompson?

43

44 MR. THOMPSON: Yes.

45

46 MR. GEORGE: Phillip Moses?

47

48 MR. MOSES: Yeah.

49

50 MR. GEORGE: Lester Wilde?

1 MR. L. WILDE: Yes.

2

3 MR. GEORGE: Alvin Oweltuck?

4

5 MR. OWELTUCK: Yes.

6

7 MR. GEORGE: Thadius Tikiun?

8

9 MR. TIKIUN: Yes.

10

11 MR. GEORGE: Mr. Chairman, 13 on ballot.

12

13 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: That motion carried.
14 Number 3 is -- now is accepted. Michelle, at this time
15 before -- not breaking the decision, approval of agenda,
16 but we've been doing yesterday and today, we would like to
17 bend, not breaking it, put you on our next -- yeah.
18 To.....

19

20 MR. ANDREW: James Berlin.

21

22 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: We will give you number
23 three, Association of Village Council President.

24

25 MR. ANDREW: Two.

26

27 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Number 2 omni (ph),
28 natural resource activities report.

29

30 MR. BERLIN: (In Yup'ik) James Berlin, Jr.
31 (In Yup'ik) AVCP Natural Resources.

32

33 (Whispered conversation)

34

35 MR. BERLIN: Yeah. (In Yup'ik)

36

37 INTERPRETER:those committee. So the
38 group, the agency have selected Michelle and -- Michelle to
39 go here and report to the advisory council. AVCP Natural
40 Resource Department, their number 1 priority is related to
41 subsistence. It's not only the waterfowl, and as well as
42 the salmon, animals, like caribou and bear and moose,
43 everything that comprise of game for subsistence purpose.
44 When they had a meeting in Alakanuk last spring, since then
45 AVCP resource group has been -- gone forward to include sea
46 mammals, because the money derived from the National Marine
47 Fisheries (indiscernible). IMN, the natives of
48 (indiscernible), David O. David from Kwigillingok, David
49 Kogson (ph), Kipnuk, vice chair, Ted Hamilton from Emmonak,
50 secretary, Peter Miller from Tuntutuliak, John P. Andrew,

1 treasurer, Koliganek, Alexie Flynn from Chefnak, Albert
2 Simon, member of -- those are the members of the committee.
3 Those are the people that are going to be -- go forward to
4 work on -- along Kuskokwim-Yukon as well as the coast to --
5 the marine mammals. And Jennifer Crist, their biologist in
6 Natural Resources, and he will be working with -- and
7 Michelle Sparck will be congressional liaison for AVCP, is
8 currently watching what legislation in Washington, D.C.

9
10 Federal subsistence management with the Alaska
11 State Legislature, failing to allow the voters of Alaska
12 decide whether there will be a rural priority in the Alaska
13 constitution. Our department is steadily prepared to work
14 with the federal subsistence resource managers. This
15 process started this spring with a meeting of subsistence
16 and commercial fishermen along the Kuskokwim River drainage
17 system. This group elected a small core group to organize.
18 Here the Kuskokwim River Drainage Fishermen's Association,
19 we had an organizational meeting, because the fish in
20 abundance haven't returned in the last three years, so
21 thereby the Village of Aniak during November or December of
22 1999 will have hunting (ph) interest among several
23 different groups. There are a lot of factors, because --
24 why the fish have been declining. Down in the oceans
25 there's trawlers and other commercial fisheries. So in
26 light of those, our subsistence, and the state seems to
27 state -- they have opted to go federal managers, along with
28 Myron as their spearhead person, the Department will go in
29 that direction.

30
31 And Western Alaska brown bear and caribou, they
32 have met in Bethel -- they were supposed to meet in Bethel.
33 Since there was no hotels available, they said something
34 like around -- they were going to try to have a meeting
35 around November. And Waterfowl Conservation Committee
36 remains at the forefront of the Alaska Natives Rights
37 Association for waterfowl. And we are heavily involved in
38 all areas referencing the flyway, including the molting and
39 staging areas of our migratory birds. We have been
40 involved in the Izembek Road, so -- where the Community of
41 Cold Bay proposed a road to King Cove. This development
42 could have a significant impact on the emperor geese which
43 many of our people depend on for subsistence food. And all
44 of their water -- migratory birds who stop by the Aleutians
45 for feeding, to continue, for instance, their long flight
46 out or in.

47
48 The WCC were also involved in the -- they're going
49 to implement the Migratory Bird Protocol Amendment, so
50 they're going to be working with the whole region as a

1 whole. Under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, us Alaskans,
2 we have been shut out of the hunting seasons, so this
3 Treaty Act Protocol Amendment which will allow for native
4 comanagement and the legalization of the spring hunt in
5 Alaska.

6

7 That's the extent of his report. (In Yup'ik)

8

9 MS. SPARCK: Mr. Chairman, we passed out a
10 copy of Tim Andrews' report to you. I'll introduce myself
11 again. Michelle Sparck, I'm -- yeah, I'm Harold Sparck's
12 daughter, but I'm also Lucy Jones Sparck's daughter from
13 Chevak. I always need to remind people. It took two to
14 raise us.

15

16 It's my pleasure to be back again to address you
17 from last year. I'd like to follow up on some things I
18 told you about last year, and one of them was the Izembek
19 Road issue. A lot of people were concerned about our
20 attention to a region that was not in our own, and the only
21 reason why we got involved was because of the -- to protect
22 a subsistence food of our own. We weren't trying to badger
23 the Aleutians just because we could, or because of the fish
24 issue. It was simply because we were trying to protect a
25 waterfowl issue for us. The trade-off in our involvement
26 was they did decide to build a road. I don't know if it's
27 actually completed on the funding part, but they decided
28 not to build it through the wilderness area, and that's the
29 area where we were concerned about, so so far that's --
30 that was taken into consideration, and they will do
31 everything they can to protect our waterfowl issues and our
32 interests.

33

34 I wanted to talk about the anti-wolf snare
35 initiative that happened on the state ballot in the fall.
36 There was a group from Alaska, supposedly made up of
37 concerned Alaskans that didn't want to see wolves being
38 tortured in their deaths on snares that didn't work
39 properly, and they started this large campaign in the state
40 to try to tell people snares are cruel and it kills not
41 just wolves, but large land mammals. They've tried to show
42 footage and pictures of moose and caribou and dogs, you
43 know, getting caught in these snares and just these
44 horrific stories about how dangerous and how cruel the
45 snares were. The reason why AVCP became involved was again
46 we think that if any national group, because this was
47 funded by a national animal rights group, if they make a
48 success in one area in the area that would affect anything
49 resembling a subsistence activity, and that includes
50 commercial trapping, then it would give them more power and

1 more fuel to go ahead and start attacking other activities
2 that would affect our subsistence way of life. So in a
3 rare occasion, we actually worked with the Alaska Outdoor
4 Council and the sportsmen group. That doesn't happen
5 often, but we worked with them along with the Tanana Chiefs
6 Conference in order to remind Alaska voters that this --
7 these are very rare occasions when the snares don't work,
8 and that it was not intended to be cruel. And, you know,
9 it was -- because of the healthy wolf populations in the
10 state, it was not necessary to manage from the public on
11 how we deal depredation of wolves.

12
13 We have been warned by national sportsmen groups
14 and trapper groups that it's not going to end here. And if
15 you had noticed the high school voting that went along with
16 the adult voting in the state, you know, even though 80
17 percent of the adult voters said that we were not going to
18 manage the wolf snare issue, the high school students
19 overwhelmingly said, let's ban snaring. And that's
20 something we should all concerned about, because the young
21 people think that they are doing a good thing by saving the
22 wolves, but then in other parts they're going to start
23 affecting our subsistence activities. So we're -- AVCP
24 Natural Resources is going to continue to observe and
25 defend hunting, trapping, fishing rights in every arena.

26
27 With the marine mammal group, I had been working on
28 the Marine Mammal Protection Act. We were getting calls
29 last year where our marine mammal hunters were concerned.
30 They heard rumors that they were going to try to take away
31 the native take exemption, because we are the only people
32 in the United States that are allowed to hunt marine
33 mammals, and make crafts from the products from there.
34 There's -- that's a false rumor. There's no way that our
35 congressional delegation would try to take away that right
36 that we have.

37
38 We've also experienced a lot of environmental
39 interest in our organizations, and this is an era of when
40 not animal rights groups, there's a big difference between
41 an animal rights group and an environmental rights groups,
42 and that's -- I've spent a lot of trying -- time trying to
43 show the difference between the two groups. And like the
44 Center for Marine Conservation, and the World Wildlife
45 Fund, those kind of groups have been trying to do outreach
46 to our organizations and try to say, what can we do to help
47 you? We know that you're scared of sharing information
48 with us, but we want you to know that we will defend
49 subsistence and marine mammal hunting rights for the native
50 people, you know, as long as we can, so that's why we're

1 trying to have a working relationship with you. So that's
2 something that we're working on, and the authorization. We
3 thought it was going to be reauthorized this year, but it
4 turns out that they want to do **Magnason Act first in
5 Congress, so we probably won't be looking at a
6 reauthorization for another two years.

7

8 And on the federal fisheries front, we had been
9 participating in the state legislative process. We did
10 keep tabs on that. And in the meantime, we had been
11 working with Taylor and the people in Fish and Wildlife in
12 deciding on how we could -- how we could try to right what
13 we've seen wrong in the current existing management process
14 of our fisheries. Commercial fisheries and subsistence
15 fisheries. It still smarts that in '97 they asked us to
16 abstain or curtail our subsistence catches in the -- for
17 the sake of getting enough brood stock, seed stock for the
18 next cycle of returning fish. So what we're hoping to
19 achieve in the federal management process, and we've read
20 plenty of what Taylor's worked on in the implementation
21 process of federal management, and we like what we've seen
22 so far in that they want to include local, tribal regional
23 participation and partnership in the management process.

24

25 So that's -- and with the Western Alaska Brown Bear
26 Management Area, the last meeting we did have, we had a
27 request from a member that we invite some of the Togiak, or
28 the Bristol Bay region villages that still harvested brown
29 bears, if we could invite them to become part of the
30 membership in WABBMA. And we did extend it to the Bristol
31 Bay Native Association in our (ph) person, and we should
32 know then if they're going to join us. Because in the past
33 we've had Togiak Refuge staff come and attend our meetings,
34 but now we want hunters to come and share their information
35 with us.

36

37 So if you have any questions on any of these
38 issues, I'd be happy to answer them.

39

40 But also, I also want to submit for your record the
41 resolutions concerning natural resources that we passed at
42 the AVCP convention last week. And 99-10-01 was supporting
43 tribal comanagement in federal subsistence fishery
44 management.

45

46 99-10-04 was requesting increased control of big
47 game sport hunting, and that's in response to the advisory
48 groups complaining upriver, up the Kuskokwim River of
49 rotting big game meat, the smell wafting in the villages.
50 And also a lot of elders were offended that some of these

1 groups, 'though they were well-intentioned, they were
2 offering spoiled meat when they didn't want to carry the
3 meat back with them. They got their trophy, but they
4 didn't want the meat.

5
6 We also have resolution number 5, which is to
7 authorize or give the Indigenous Peoples Council of Marine
8 Mammals, IPCOMM, the authority to negotiate in the Marine
9 Mammals Protection Act reauthorization process. I went as
10 a member of IPCOMM and since I am in Washington most of the
11 time, IPCOMM has depended heavily on my watching out for
12 their interests, so IOM has been elevated in status in
13 IPCOMM's membership, so that's -- AVCP passed a resolution,
14 and we're also bringing it up at AFN that AFN support
15 IPCOMM in this issue.

16
17 Number 7 is the -- a resolution supporting the use
18 of floating weirs to count salmon spawners. As you guys
19 well know, in the past we have had problems from certain
20 villages believing that the weirs were dangerous and
21 contributed to the deaths of spawning fish because of some
22 footage that was shot. There were a lot of reasons why the
23 fish appeared the way they did in that video, and it took
24 us several years to finally pull out a resolution that said
25 we do not support the use of weirs in our region, but now
26 we've pulled that back, because it's one of the most
27 effective ways of counting and monitoring our returning
28 fish stocks.

29
30 Number 9 is a resolution regarding sport fishing in
31 the AVCP region, which read, therefore be it resolved that
32 the delegates of AVCP follow up on Resolution 98-10-13 and
33 draft regulations closing sport fishing when commercial
34 fishing is closed due to low returns of salmon.

35
36 Resolution 10 is requesting research into
37 subsistence food contamination. That's going to be very
38 helpful to us in working with the Environmental Protection
39 Agency, and also Fish and Wildlife and the National Marine
40 Fisheries Service in getting our local people trained in
41 performing necropsies, that means sampling and studying the
42 bodies of animals, of marine mammals that have washed up
43 where we have found, or salvaged off the beaches, and find
44 out if there's an illness among them, or what they -- what
45 caused them to die.

46
47 Resolution number 12 is titled Tribal Comanagement
48 for Species Listed Under the Endangered Species Act, and
49 that further empowers the AVCP region to be able to work
50 with the government when a species is listed -- listed

1 threatened or endangered.

2

3 And the last one, number 13, the resolution is
4 asking to fully implement the tribal comanagement
5 provisions of the Migratory Bird Treaty amendments, and
6 you're very well familiar with that, so that was just an
7 extra kick for us to try to get more support in this new
8 comanagement process, so quyana.

9

10 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Quyana, James and
11 Michelle. (In Yup'ik).

12

13 MR. OWELTUCK: Mr. Chairman?

14

15 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Alvin?

16

17 MR. OWELTUCK: You can -- you said that
18 earlier that there was a wolf population study. Is AVCP
19 doing some kind of study on wolf population?

20

21 MS. SPARCK: On what populations?

22

23 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Wolf.

24

25 MS. SPARCK: Wolf?

26

27 MR. OWELTUCK: Wolf, uh-huh.

28

29 MS. SPARCK: Oh. From what we have
30 gathered from Alaska Department of Fish and Game and from
31 Fish and Wildlife, the wolf populations are very healthy,
32 and that our snaring and trapping practices are only a
33 means to help curb the population from overrunning their
34 habitat and causing more predation on caribou and moose.
35 So they're very healthy. They're in no danger of being
36 wiped out.

37

38 Mr. Chairman, I also just remembered another thing
39 I needed to bring up. AVCP has finally completed a history
40 of meetings we've had regarding land mammal management, all
41 the 809 meetings we've had for the last six or eight years.
42 We turned it in to Patricia McClenahan in Anchorage. I
43 hear she's on sabbatical, she's going back to school, but
44 we will work with the new person on land mammals. They
45 said they had money for us to try to start up a new project
46 in the region, and after polling several villages, it was
47 decided that the most productive use we could get out of a
48 new project is to try to create a lower Kuskokwim moose
49 management plan, kind of similar to the lower Yukon moose
50 management plan. Because of the successes we have seen in

1 that program up in the Yukon, we also would like to try to
2 do that, a cooperative project with the lower Kuskokwim,
3 because we have been getting reports that any observations
4 of moose coming up to the lower Kuskokwim region are
5 quickly doused. So we're going to try to see if we can
6 find a way to increase the moose population in the
7 Kuskokwim so we don't always have to keep going up to the
8 Yukon and bothering our neighbors up there.

9

10 Did you want to.....

11

12 MR. BERLIN: Yeah. (In Yup'ik)

13

14 INTERPRETER: When he was trying to
15 complete his report, he saw some 17 and 19(B), Eek and
16 Quinhagak, the customary and traditional use, was to ask to
17 expand or reconsider that those two, Quinhagak and Eek, are
18 in favor of an support of that number. 17(B) and 19(B).
19 For harvest.

20

21 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Robert?

22

23 MR. NICK: Yeah. Of course, Mary spilled
24 hers a while ago.

25

26 James, I guess both of you, we -- this committee
27 here, our -- what I call fiduciary or legal or moral or our
28 responsibility is on federal lands, subsistence management
29 on federal lands only, and it does not extend to state or
30 private land. So I think we still need a strong voice
31 other than us. I know that AVCP speaks a lot louder than
32 we can to the state. And one species that we heard time
33 and time again in all these years, and more so yesterday
34 and this morning and today is the wolf, you know, wolf
35 predation of the caribou, potential predation of -- by the
36 wolves of the caribou and moose. And I think AVCP should
37 follow up and make -- possibly review and make
38 recommendations. One of the recommendations that was made
39 was to allow shooting of wolves that are following the
40 caribou and the moose. All summer, you know, we kept
41 seeing moose around -- you know, way out from way -- I hear
42 that there's none up -- way up there, but there's more way
43 down here. And then I heard that the reason is because the
44 wolves are pushing them down. So I think we need to have
45 AVCP Natural Resource Department continue to watch the wolf
46 population and predation.

47

48 And then the other thing that I'd like AVCP to
49 address is what we've heard on and on again, you know, in
50 the last couple days, is the beaver. We need to do

1 something about the beaver. And then my recommendation
2 during the past four or five years, you know, to people at
3 home is to have a bounty on beaver, where maybe part of the
4 conservation plan for the preservation of our whitefish,
5 blackfish, is to use part of the \$11 million to set up a
6 \$500,000 bounty to capture and kill beaver. So that would
7 be one idea. If that happens, you know, you'll have people
8 going out and coming home with boat loads of beaver.

9

10 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: (In Yup'ik) Fritz?

11

12 MR. GEORGE: Yeah. Quyana, Mr. Chairman.
13 Isn't there a provision in the government caribou working
14 group that whenever the agency goes flying to count the
15 caribou or brown bear, that they need to have somebody from
16 one of the villages riding along and observe the counting?

17

18 MR. BERLIN: (In Yup'ik)

19

20 INTERPRETER: Robert's concern
21 (indiscernible) on October (indiscernible) for
22 (indiscernible) I will be travelling to Barrow to attend
23 the Board of Game regarding the wolf predation.

24

25 MR. KOVACH: Good afternoon, Mr. Chair. My
26 name is Steve Kovach. I'm the mammals biologist with the
27 Yukon Delta Refuge. As I understand it, the question is,
28 is that -- is there a standard procedure for village
29 representatives to accompany us, to go with us on caribou
30 tracking flights, and brown bear tracking flights, is that
31 correct?

32

33 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Yeah.

34

35 MR. KOVACH: Yeah. Yes, there is. We do
36 have a standard policy of taking people with us on tracking
37 flights, especially when they're in the safer country to
38 fly. If we're doing flights in the real rugged mountains,
39 we don't take people on those flights, just because of the
40 safety factor. But all people have to do is call the
41 refuge office, and let us know who they are and where
42 they're from, and what their -- what the interest is, you
43 know, if they want to go with us on a caribou flight to see
44 how we do that, or go with us on a bear flight and see how
45 we do that. We only take people on bear flights during the
46 summertime, just from the safety factor of the cold
47 weather, and -- because where the bears den is up in the
48 deep mountains, and we don't like taking riders along on
49 those flights, because the flying is so dangerous. But
50 we're more than happy to take people on bear flights during

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1 the summer time when the bears are in nicer country, and we
2 don't have to turn three G turns constantly and things like
3 that. Anything else?

4

5 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Council, any questions?
6 Thank you.

7

8 MR. NICK: Can I put him on the spot?

9

10 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Okay. Go ahead. No
11 more spilled coffee.

12

13 MR. NICK: No, I spilled it all. Steve,
14 sitting on the Fish and Wildlife van waiting for -- with
15 John Andrew waiting for the others to come in, you know, I
16 was at the airport for two hours, because I came early, and
17 we had to wait for the others, and that allowed me to sit
18 and listen to you and George Walters communicating from
19 your airplanes back to base. I guess you were, you know,
20 counting caribou, or checking caribou up in the mountains.
21 And then the reason why I bring this up is I just glanced
22 through the agenda, because the last couple days, you know,
23 we kept hearing about helicopters corralling or flying
24 around the mountains, so -- and then we heard from people
25 that actually saw the airplanes. You know, when I first
26 heard it, you know, I was on my way to AVCP convention, so
27 I went to Mike Rearden's office and I asked him, and he
28 said, no, it's not you guys, you know, but I keep hearing
29 them. You know, I kept hearing them yesterday and today.
30 Tell us the truth, you know, are you guys -- is it you guys
31 or is it somebody else? Who is it? And if it's somebody
32 else, why -- it is -- I know that it is illegal to harass
33 game.....

34

35 MR. KOVACH: Uh-huh. (Affirmative)

36

37 MR. NICK:by airplane, and if
38 somebody is this doing this, why aren't you going after
39 them?

40

41 MR. KOVACH: Well, let me tell you.....

42

43 MR. NICK: I'm sorry I put you on the spot.

44

45 MR. KOVACH: Let me take your -- the first
46 part of your question, first, and then I'm going to turn
47 the second half over to Paul Liedberg from our office.
48 We've been out for two days counting caribou, doing
49 composition counts on the herd to learn more about calf
50 survival during the summertime, just what the status of the

1 herd is. And what you were hearing was a lot of
2 communications between us in the observer airplane where we
3 were finding radio-collared caribou for the helicopter to
4 come in and do all the composition work. And that's what
5 we've been doing for two days. In fact, that's why I'm
6 still wearing my flight clothes, we just got done doing
7 that work.

8

9 Now, for the -- the thing about harassment and
10 helicopter and airplane and so on, we got calls all last
11 week about this, and I'm going to let Paul go and reveal
12 some of his investigations of trying to find out what the
13 result of -- or what was happening and so on there.

14

15 MR. NICK: Can you remain there for a
16 moment, Steve?

17

18 MR. KOVACH: Hmm?

19

20 MR. NICK: Can you remain there for a
21 moment for.....

22

23 MR. KOVACH: Absolutely.

24

25 MR. NICK:my next comment? The
26 reason I'm addressing you is because I heard you on the
27 radio yesterday, you and George Walters, you know, calling
28 from the Kilbuck Mountains, you know, and Eek River, so how
29 do you do your counting? Do you swoop down to the caribou?
30 I know that you have to get close to count them. Maybe
31 that's what you were doing, you know, when people thought
32 that you were corralling.

33

34 MR. KOVACH: Right. Our standard
35 procedures for when we're just doing a straight caribou
36 count were any -- depending upon the lighting conditions,
37 snow cover conditions, you know, when it's real patchy snow
38 like we have here, it's very difficult to see caribou.
39 Today we were flying about -- between 200 and 400 feet
40 above the ground. Typically what we are is about 1,000
41 above the ground when the visibility's much better, and we
42 generally -- we always fly to the side of caribou so we can
43 look across them, and it's easier to count them like that.
44 Basically we just -- you have caribou here, we fly off to
45 the side so we can look straight out the side of the
46 airplane and count the animals as we go by. About 90, 95
47 percent of the caribou don't even react to the airplane,
48 and half of them don't even look at the airplane even. If
49 they're laying down, they stay laying down, if they're
50 feeding, they continue to feed. Generally young

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1 individuals tend to jump and react to the airplane going
2 by, or animals that have been harassed by hunters a lot
3 react a lot to the airplane. We can -- in the middle of
4 winter, we can always tell a caribou group that's been
5 hunted the previous weekend and which ones haven't, because
6 if they haven't been, they don't even look up at us. They
7 flat ignore us. And those that have been harassed by
8 hunters the weekend before we can be a half mile away and
9 they're already starting to move a little bit. I mean,
10 they're just used to that motor noise. They have a fresh
11 memory of that motor noise, people, you know, getting close
12 and shooting at them and stuff like that.

13
14 When we just do tracking flights, we're generally
15 anywhere from five to 10,000 feet up, and all we're doing
16 is listening for signals. We're not counting animals,
17 we're not really looking for them. All we're trying to do
18 is just get a general location of where the radio collars
19 are so the next day or two when we come in, to actually
20 come in and do the counting, we have places, known places
21 to go to look for caribou. That that's pretty much the
22 standard procedure as far as that goes. So it's pretty
23 much just straight and level flying whether it's low or
24 whether it's high. You know, sometimes we have to peel
25 around and do -- you know, and get a group again just
26 because we didn't see them real well or something like
27 that, and whatnot. But the thing that we strive for is not
28 disturbing the animals as much as possible.

29
30 Now, the composition counts is a little bit
31 different. Fish and Game has a helicopter, it's an R-44,
32 it's a very small helicopter, it's quiet. Animals don't
33 seem to react to it very much. It's kind of surprising.
34 I've never seen animals not react to a helicopter before
35 until I've seen them around these things. And basically
36 what they do is they come in and they have to get them up,
37 they have to get them moving in order to properly age and
38 sex the animals, and what not. Because they're looking at
39 adult females, yearling females, calf females, large adult
40 bulls, sub adult bulls, and calf bulls. And that's --
41 those are the categories that they're assigning to the
42 animals that they're counting. And so they have to get
43 reasonably close and get really good views. And we have to
44 do this in order to keep track of the health of the herd
45 and status of the herd. That's why we only do these
46 composition counts in the fall when the animals tend to be
47 healthier. And we do it after the rut so we don't have
48 great big giant bands of caribou. We are dealing with
49 smaller groups of caribou, so when we go in and disturb
50 animals, we're just disturbing a group of 50, not a group

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1 of 250.

2

3 MR. NICK: My final question or comment,
4 Steve, is when you do your close up count,.....

5

6 MR. KOVACH: Uh-huh.

7

8 MR. NICK:you know, it's hard --
9 you're travelling at.....

10

11 MR. KOVACH: Uh-huh.

12

13 MR. NICK:maybe 80 knots,.....

14

15 MR. KOVACH: It depends.....

16

17 MR. NICK:(indiscernible -
18 simultaneous speech) you see a whole bunch of them there,
19 so you look at those and say, oh, is there 30 there? And
20 Joe will say maybe, no, there's 50 of them, so do you
21 circle around and do another count?

22

23 MR. KOVACH: Only if we don't get a good
24 view of them. With a little bit of practice, you get
25 surprisingly good at counting animals. Air speed all
26 depends upon the terrain, the wind, you know, there's a lot
27 of variables in there, you know, but if we've got a
28 particularly large group, we'll show it down to about 60
29 knots, and, you know, we drop the flaps, and we slow it
30 down and just run beside the animals, off to the side in
31 order to get a good view. We always try and put the sun
32 behind us so it kind of lights the animals up. You know,
33 there's lots of little tricks that you do to make counting
34 easier, even when it's a very large group of animals.

35

36 MR. NICK: And your airplane is blue?

37

38 MR. KOVACH: What is our new airplane
39 anyway? We got a brand new airplane, and I don't even know
40 the numbers of it, it's so new.

41

42 MR. NICK: Okay. Yeah. Okay. Yeah, this
43 is a generic question, you know, and maybe the Fish and
44 Game's helicopter's white and small, so -- but anyway, Fish
45 and Game.....

46

47 MR. KOVACH: No, the Fish and Game
48 helicopter is black.

49

50 MR. NICK: Yeah. But anyway you said that

1 you do your counting in the falltime. That's when the
2 hunters are also out there trying to catch their
3 subsistence food. Can you do your hunting some other time
4 when the hunters are not out there?

5
6 MR. KOVACH: Well, no,.....

7
8 MR. NICK: Now that we know that it's you
9 that's out there flying around?

10
11 MR. KOVACH: Well, no, no, no. Like I
12 said, there's two parts to your question here. We haven't
13 got to the second half of it yet. We pick on the fall,
14 because we need to look at calf survival during the
15 summertime. How many calves survived through the summer to
16 enter the fall, so this is a very critical statistic for
17 us, because we fly the calving grounds. We're out there
18 actually counting numbers of calves and number of cows on
19 the calving grounds. We're trying to get an idea of how
20 many calves were born, and then we do these fall
21 composition counts again, among other things, we get -- to
22 try and get a good handle on how many calves survived the
23 summer, you know, and whatnot. We pick on the fall for
24 that reason.

25
26 We also pick on sites -- to do these counting, we
27 specifically pick sites far away from people, where they
28 could even possibly be this time of year to hunt, because
29 we don't want to disturb hunters, we don't want to disturb
30 animals near hunters. Now, as you know, accidents happen,
31 and sometimes you come around a corner, and, you know, you
32 come across a hunting party. You know, that happens. But
33 we try to target animals a long ways away. The vast
34 majority of the animals we found and we worked yesterday
35 were on the back side of the Great Ridge, south and east of
36 the Great Ridge. We were up by Heart Lake, Upper Trail
37 Creek area, Goodnews Lake, Goodnews River, way up high, up
38 by the lake. We were pretty deep into the mountains, and
39 we didn't see anybody else except ourselves up there all
40 day long. We specifically pick on sites to be away from
41 people, because we don't want to disturb hunters, because
42 they're out there trying to catch their animals and things
43 like that. You know, we're -- you know, we hunt, too. We
44 want caribou to fill our freezers, too. We don't want to
45 be disturbed. So we try to be as conscious of that fact as
46 possible. Like I said, sometimes mistakes are made, you
47 know, on that.

48
49 Now, on the second part, you know, I know there was
50 comments made at the AVCP convention about helicopters and

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1 airplanes corralling up, herding animals, and chasing them
2 back into the mountains and so on, and like I said, we got
3 phone calls all week long. Fish and Game got phone calls.
4 At first we were going, huh? And whatnot. But Paul did a
5 lot of investigation on that, so I'll let him go and answer
6 that part of your question.

7
8 MR. NICK: Okay.

9
10 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Billy?

11
12 MR. McCANN: I do have a question about
13 your searching the caribous. When you are circling your
14 chart, how far you have to -- you are circling on one side
15 or around a herd?

16
17 MR. KOVACH: We circle if we have -- if we
18 didn't get a good count, and then what we do is we actually
19 turn away from the animals, and.....

20
21 MR. McCANN: Uh-huh.

22
23 MR. KOVACH:then come back to them.
24 We don't actually go around the animals. We don't do that.
25 We -- what our procedure is, is we don't aim right at the
26 group, we aim off to the side of the group, because if we
27 aim -- if we fly over the top of the animals, we can't
28 count them. We have to be off to the side, away from the
29 animals in order to get a quality count in. And if for
30 some reason the ground rolls, or something like that, and
31 we couldn't see real well, the pilot -- what he'll do, is
32 he'll -- if the animals are on the right, then what he'll
33 do is he'll make a left-hand turn and turn away from the
34 animals, come back around, and we'll do another run. Maybe
35 we need to be a little bit higher, maybe we need to be a
36 little bit lower. It just all depends upon, you know, the
37 visibility and the conditions and the wind, and all kinds
38 of things.

39
40 MR. McCANN: Okay. Are you trying to keep
41 it on one spot, or are you push it away from the hunters?
42 That's what I've hearing. I've been hearing this too much
43 a lot of the time. Quite a few now. You guys are pushing
44 the herd, because you're trying to count a herd, or get the
45 radio contact from them, but I think it's -- because
46 hunters are right there trying to hunt them, and you come
47 and push the herd along some place. How far do you send --
48 the herd can go from the spot when you do that? How far
49 what run away from it, the spot where -- about a mile or a
50 couple miles?

1 MR. KOVACH: I would say 99 groups out of
2 100 that we survey do not move ten feet. They don't move
3 at all, because we don't bother those animals. We're far
4 enough away they're not reacting to us. The one group out
5 of 100 that does move is generally a quarter mile or less.

6
7 MR. McCANN: A quarter mile then.

8
9 MR. KOVACH: Or less.

10
11 MR. McCANN: Okay.

12
13 MR. KOVACH: You know, generally it's kind
14 of a startled response out of the animal. They just kind
15 of jump a little bit,.....

16
17 MR. McCANN: Uh-huh.

18
19 MR. KOVACH:and then stop, or they'll
20 just do a short dash and stop. And that's -- those are the
21 -- you know, of those animals that do react to us, which
22 like I said is a very, very small percentage of the total,
23 that's about all they do, is just kind of a startled kind
24 of reaction to us.

25
26 MR. McCANN: Uh-huh. Yeah, the hunters
27 been talking about you guys are pushing it away from the
28 hunters who are trying to get subsistence.

29
30 MR. KOVACH: Right. You've got to
31 remember, we're not the only ones with airplanes out there.

32
33 MR. McCANN: I've been wondering, maybe you
34 guys are going the scare -- trying to scare them away from
35 hunters. If you do that, I'm going to bother you a lot.

36
37 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

38
39 INTERPRETER: He wanted -- the Chair want
40 to come back and talk about -- go back to the AVCP report.
41 When it comes to Fish and Wildlife, then we'll get back to
42 this subject. The meeting is still at the AVCP report, if
43 anybody has any questions to AVCP representatives, you may
44 ask or comment.

45
46 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

47
48 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Yeah. Mary?

49
50 MS. GREGORY: Michelle and James, (In

1 Yup'ik). I want to put it on record, they gave a very good
2 report, and I want to commend them for doing their job
3 well.

4
5 MR. BERLIN: Quyana.

6
7 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

8
9 INTERPRETER: Are there any more comments?
10 Questions?

11
12 MS. SPARCK: In that case, I'll close our
13 report now, and quyana. I just wanted to reiterate the
14 question I had last year, was what role you consider AVCP's
15 Natural Resource staff, what role you want us to play in
16 your advisory group. James and I will always be happy to
17 work with you, so will Jennifer and Tim will basically be
18 at your service if you have any questions or if you need
19 any research done on any of the issues, and if you want us
20 to speak in a louder voice to the State, like you've said
21 before on certain issues, or with our dealings with Fish
22 and Wildlife on projects that we have on-going with our
23 groups, you know. We're here to offer our services to you,
24 and if you could keep us up to date on what things you're
25 working on, and what we should make testimonies and
26 considerations on ahead of time, so that we are prepared to
27 work with you. I just wanted you to know that about our
28 work.

29
30 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Quyana.

31
32 MR. NICK: I think what you've done so far
33 is -- you know, it's good you provided some resolutions
34 that the convention passed. And I remember last year when
35 I was a new member, you gave me information on the black
36 bear, you know. And Mary, you know, just put it all in one
37 sentence there, you know, and expressed our appreciation.
38 You know, I know that -- I know that all you're doing, you
39 know, is for the people in the region and the resource. So
40 I think you're doing fine now.

41
42 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Quyana. Yeah. Quyana.

43
44 MS. SPARCK: Quyana.

45
46 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Uh-huh. Yeah.

47
48 MS. GREGORY: I move that we recess for the
49 day.

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1 MR. ANDREW: (In Yup'ik)

2

3 MS. GREGORY: Until 8:00 o'clock tonight.

4

5 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Yeah. (In Yup'ik)

6

7 INTERPRETER: If it's okay with everyone,
8 Mary made a motion to recess and then after the evening
9 service, they will reconvene this evening. They will
10 reconvene about 8:00 o'clock this evening.

11

12 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: If it will be okay
13 after church, 8:00 o'clock if we start. I don't know if
14 you guys want to go as far as two, 3:00 o'clock in the
15 morning, that's okay.

16

17 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: (Indiscernible)
18 o'clock.

19

20 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik) the motion?

21

22 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Oh, if there's any
23 second to.....

24

25 MR. NICK: I'll second the motion.

26

27 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Yeah, Robert Nick
28 second (In Yup'ik).

29

30 IN UNISON: Aye.

31

32 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: (In Yup'ik) 8:00
33 o'clock.

34

35 (Off record)

36

37 (On record)

38

39 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

40

41 INTERPRETER: The evening session, back
42 to.....

43

44 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: For evening session. I
45 go by my time, it's 8:00 o'clock now, and we're on our
46 agenda, agencies report. Refuge. We're on the refuge.
47 Yukon Delta NWR staff report. You have.....

48

49 MR. ANDREW: I have Paul Liedberg and Steve
50 Kovach.

1 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Uh-huh.

2

3 MR. LIEDBERG: Mike Rearden passes on his
4 regrets for not being able to attend this meeting, but he
5 always enjoys the meetings and visiting with everybody, but
6 he couldn't make it this time. Again, my name is Paul
7 Liedberg, I'm Mike's assistant at the refuge, and I don't
8 want to take a lot of your time, but I want to address a
9 couple of issues that I think will be of interest.

10

11 The first thing I guess I want to say is we do have
12 a couple of new people on the staff which you will be
13 dealing with probably in the future. We just hired Gene
14 Peltola, Jr., who is occupying one of the manager positions
15 on the staff, and you may know him. He grew up in Bethel.
16 We also hired another person for the management staff which
17 is Patrick Snow, who's originally from McGrath. And we're
18 hoping both of those guys hang around for a while and help
19 us out. So you may be talking or hearing from both of
20 those guys.

21

22 I'll talk just briefly to finish off our discussion
23 of airplanes and helicopters chasing caribou, and then
24 hopefully we can put that to rest. But I will reiterate
25 that it is illegal, and we are taking action when we know
26 about airplanes or helicopters that may be chasing animals.
27 Earlier this summer we were in contact with three different
28 air taxi operators that were flying low out over the coast
29 and disturbing birds, and we were able to, I think,
30 successfully deal with them, and we will also deal with any
31 other airplanes or helicopters that we are aware of. I
32 guess what I would pass on is that we need to know about it
33 if it's taking place. We've had a couple of calls at the
34 office, and I've done a fair amount of work, well, some
35 work, trying to track them down, and over the course of
36 about ten phone calls and checking with ten people, I
37 haven't found anybody yet that actually has seen this
38 taking place. So I guess if there's anyone on the council
39 or anyone in the room that is -- can give me names of who
40 actually saw what took place, I will work on that further.
41 We need to know, and if you can get airplane numbers or if
42 you can tell those hunters to get airplane numbers or
43 descriptions, but the main thing is, call us as soon as
44 they get back from hunting so we can work on it. We are
45 interested in it. I won't say any more on that, unless
46 there are any other questions. Good. Thank you.

47

48 We were talking earlier about the work that Steve
49 and our staff are doing with caribou and brown bear, and
50 the types of surveys we do. I guess I just wanted to pass

1 on one thing, and that is that we do have working groups
2 that review all of our work, both for the Kilbuck caribou
3 and the brown bear studies. They are well aware of the
4 surveys we're doing and how we're doing them, so there is a
5 lot of review by local people on the work that we are doing
6 there. So it isn't totally on the backs of you guys to
7 review that. We appreciate it, and we always want to
8 discuss those projects with you, but we also have working
9 groups that we deal with regularly. And I think Steve's
10 going to mention an up-coming meeting that we have for
11 those working groups, and also invite any of you to those
12 meetings.

13
14 Michelle introduced an idea of beginning a dialogue
15 on the low moose populations on the lower Kuskokwim River,
16 and it's also an issue that we have identified that needs
17 attention, and we've identified it over the last couple of
18 years. Too many hunters from the lower Kuskokwim villages
19 spend a lot of time and money to hunt moose and come back
20 with nothing. Others travel well over 100 miles upriver to
21 hunt moose in the back yard of other villages. And still
22 other hunters may take moose illegally. I personally
23 investigated the poaching of four cow moose in the last
24 year, and we know of many others that were taken illegally.
25 None of those cow moose are now available to help build the
26 lower Kuskokwim population of moose.

27
28 But I don't want to -- I'm not here to discuss the
29 poaching of moose. What we want to do is begin a
30 discussion over the next year on how we can begin to build
31 that population up. Last week we met briefly with Fish and
32 Game to talk about the issue, and in December we want to
33 meet again with Fish and Game, but also include all the
34 other people, all the other groups that have an interest in
35 that moose population. Certainly AVCP, fish and game
36 advisory committee, and interested members of this
37 committee so that we can begin to discuss it. As Willard
38 said earlier today, we have to think ahead so that the
39 resources will be available for the future, and that's what
40 we want to begin to do.

41
42 There are several things we can probably do to
43 increase the population, but certainly one that has worked
44 in other areas is a closure until we get enough moose to
45 have a good hunt. Some of the council members sitting here
46 have been the recipients and have benefitted from closures
47 that have taken place in other areas in the region,
48 especially the lower Yukon, and through a cooperative
49 effort with the villages, Fish and Game and others, the
50 season was closed for several years and the population is

1 now growing rapidly there. In the Togiak area, public
2 attitude changed several years ago, and there was a
3 reduction in the illegal harvest of moose and now that
4 population is growing very rapidly as well. Now, the same
5 thing could happen on the lower Kuskokwim.

6

7 I think we all share the same goal of having enough
8 moose in the area so that, number one, hunters can be more
9 successful. Secondly so that they do not have to travel
10 hundreds of miles to hunt. And lastly so they do not have
11 to take moose illegally to feed their families. How to
12 reach that goal is what we all need to get together and
13 discuss.

14

15 We're not asking for the council's discussion or
16 recommendations at this time, but it's just an issue we
17 want to present, and for the council to be aware of, and
18 something that you'll be hearing more from in the future,
19 probably at your next meeting. So we are, as the Fish and
20 Wildlife Service, are looking forward to being part of that
21 cooperative effort.

22

23 I'll turn it over to Steve who has some information
24 on specific work that he's been doing, and we've been doing
25 with surveys on the biological program, and then we can --
26 would be willing to take any questions.

27

28 MR. KOVACH: Good evening, Mr. Chair. Just
29 to reiterate like I've said in meetings past, on the refuge
30 I may be the mammals biologist there, but I work very
31 closely with the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, Roger
32 Seavoy there. We work very closely not only on caribou and
33 moose and bears, but on a lot of issues that are common to
34 both of our agencies, such as fur bearers.

35

36 Paul mentioned that we do have working groups we
37 work with, specifically the Kilbuck Caribou Working Group,
38 and the Brown Bear Working Group. We did have a meeting
39 scheduled with both of those working groups in the last
40 year, but due to logistical problems, they had to be
41 canceled. Currently both of these groups are scheduled to
42 meet in the first week of November in Bethel. We haven't
43 quite figured out if it's going to be a Tuesday/Wednesday
44 meeting or a Wednesday/Thursday, but it will be the first
45 week of November.

46

47 Caribou. Monitoring caribou through the winter
48 last year, depending upon the month, we had anywhere
49 between ten and 27,000 caribou using the refuge south of
50 the Kuskokwim River. Or south and east of the Kuskokwim

1 River. We had a larger number of sightings of caribou on
2 the northwest side of the river this last winter than we've
3 had in the winter before. In fact, I've had a number of
4 reports of a group that just crossed the river here in the
5 last week or so down near Eek. Also for the first time
6 we've had a group of caribou summer out on the tundra flats
7 here, basically between here in Quinhagak and Eek all
8 summer long. This is the first time we've had a
9 substantial number of animals summering in this area.

10

11 Also again for the third year in a row, we had a
12 segment of the Western Arctic caribou herd come down into
13 the refuge in December of '98, January of '99, and again
14 residents of Russian Mission and Marshall reported
15 harvesting caribou in the vicinity of those villages, as
16 well as Ohogamiut.

17

18 Like the summer before, we only had about 3,000
19 caribou summer on the refuge in the Kilbuck Mountains
20 specifically, although calving was very widespread this
21 year. There was not a concentrated area of calving like
22 we've seen in past years. It was very widely distributed.
23 We're not quite sure what the reason for this is, but this
24 was also noticed in the Mulchatna caribou herd. It was
25 also a little more widely dispersed than what it has been
26 in previous years.

27

28 Bad weather during the peak of the calving season
29 prevented ourselves as well as our counterparts in
30 Dillingham from doing any caribou calving flights at all
31 this year, so we really don't know what the production was.
32 The preliminary numbers from our composition work
33 yesterday, and these are very, very preliminary numbers, we
34 were just scratching them out on the back of a piece of
35 paper very quickly, it looked like we only had about 20
36 calves per 100 cows, which is very, very low for this time
37 of the year. We're not quite sure if this is
38 representative of the herd in general, or it just happens
39 to be what we picked up. There are composition counts
40 scheduled next week for other parts of the range occupied
41 by both the Kilbuck caribou herd, and the Mulchatna caribou
42 herd. There will be a total of three composition counts.
43 All three of these will be pooled together, and we'll look
44 at those numbers as a complete set, and hopefully it will
45 give us a broader picture as to what this over-all group of
46 caribou has -- their status is.

47

48 And contrary to past couple of years, caribou kind
49 of were a little late in coming into the refuge this year.
50 They didn't move onto the refuge until the middle part of

1 September, and the caribou season as you know is opened by
2 a -- is a to be announced kind of a season. The bag limit
3 is also to be announced. The season was opened on the 17th
4 of September with a bag limit of five caribou again.

5
6 Currently the caribou are doing what caribou do.
7 They're moving quite rapidly right before freeze up, and
8 they're fairly widely distributed throughout a lot of the
9 very southern and western portions of Unit 18.

10
11 We reported to you previously that we were going to
12 attempt to deploy new collars on caribou, because our --
13 the number of radio-collared caribou is dwindling both due
14 to natural mortality, old aging of the caribou that are
15 wearing those collars, as well as old age of the collars
16 themselves.
17 The batteries are running out. Last November we went out
18 with a helicopter using net guns, and started catching
19 caribou. However, the weather warmed up, we lost our snow
20 cover, so after only placing nine new collars, we shut down
21 the operation, because it became no longer safe to catch
22 caribou.

23
24 Moving on to moose, at your spring meeting last
25 year, if you remember, we were just getting ready to do a
26 census in what we call the middle Yukon count area. That
27 is basically from halfway between Pilot Station and
28 Marshall, all the way down to Mountain Village, and all the
29 associated treed areas along the Yukon River there. The
30 count area is about 2,300 square miles in size. We spent
31 six days with four aircraft counting moose. We counted 165
32 moose, which doesn't sound like very much. After we ran
33 through the math, we have an estimated population of 524
34 animals, or an average density of 0.2 moose per square
35 mile, or basically one moose for every five square miles of
36 habitat. When you put this in perspective, we first
37 counted this area, this same area in 1994, and that -- in
38 that year they had more planes for another day. They had
39 five planes for six days. They only observed 31 moose in
40 this whole count area, versus our 165, and a population
41 estimate of only 51. In this four years, this moose
42 population as expanded by ten-fold. It went from an
43 estimated size of 51 to an estimated size of 524 animals.
44 This is an incredible growth in moose. It is much more
45 rapid than what a moose population is inherently capable
46 of, especially if it's only 51 in size. So it's -- this
47 growth is a combination of local moose breeding and
48 reproducing and young surviving, as well as moose
49 continuing to move in from upriver. And we were very
50 excited by these results. We had an open-house, Fish and

1 Game hosted an open-house in St. Marys afterwards to share
2 these results with everybody, because we were very excited
3 about it, and Mr. Chair I know and Mr. Thompson can
4 personally attest to the growth of moose in the local area
5 as well as wolves, because when you've got more food,
6 you're going to have more predators. They kind of go hand-
7 in-hand. It is just through the sheer diligence of the
8 people there, restraining themselves from harvesting cows
9 that has allowed this population to grow as rapidly as it
10 has. It's going to turn around and result in increased --
11 additional increases in moose in the lowest part of the
12 Yukon.

13
14 We currently have plans to do another census this
15 coming winter. It will be the Kuskokwim River and the
16 Kilbuck Mountains area. We have changed the way we do
17 censuses. We have -- the people who crunch numbers have
18 found a more efficient way for us to cover more ground, and
19 so what our hope is, is we will continue to budget for a
20 census every winter like we have in the past, but what
21 we're going to do is on even-numbered years we're basically
22 going to do the Kuskokwim River/Kilbuck Mountains; in odd-
23 numbered years we will do the entire portion of the Yukon
24 River that lies within Unit 18. So every other year we'll
25 be going back to the same area and redoing the censuses
26 now. This should result in much better data than what
27 we've had in years past, and we'll have a much better idea
28 of what our populations are doing.

29
30 We have no real new information on either black
31 bears or brown bears at this time. We are not doing
32 anything with black bears, other than keeping just kind of
33 a running tally of bears that we see during other work that
34 we do, and information we get from people who are either
35 doing subsistence hunting or fishing or at their fish
36 camps. We seem to have had more bear incidences at fish
37 camps this year than we have had in previous years however.

38
39 The brown bear project that we're working on, we've
40 had three natural mortalities of radio-collared females
41 this year, this summer. We're now down to 20 radio-
42 collared females in our study group here. We did very
43 little flying this year due to bad weather predominantly,
44 but we also had a little bit of problems with aircraft
45 availability.

46
47 One of the things that we're beginning to get a
48 very good picture of, seeing as how we've been doing this
49 project since '93, is what the production and survival of
50 cubs are. Production and survival of cubs appears to be

1 some of the lowest in the state. To give you an example,
2 for the data we've collected from 1993 through the end of
3 1998, for those cubs we've observed coming out of the den
4 with their females, only 20 percent of those are alive when
5 they're weaned by their females, by their mothers. And
6 this is some of the lowest in the state. Another example,
7 we only had two litters born this summer, both of those
8 litters were lost by the 4th of June. One-third of our
9 yearling offspring are now missing. They did not survive
10 the summer. So our mortality rates are fairly high. We'll
11 be reviewing these information and others with the Bear
12 Working Group when we meet next month.

13
14 We are planning to do a capture on brown bears in
15 June to replace the radio collars, because the batteries
16 will be aging to the point where they're going to start
17 going off line, and we want -- we need to continue
18 gathering some reproductive information on this population.

19
20 Also, I want to touch on wolves and wolverine.
21 They're a fairly important resource for subsistence users
22 out here. We recognize this. I mentioned at your fall
23 meeting last year that we have noticed a tremendous
24 increase in the harvest of both wolves and wolverine in
25 Unit 18, both not only in the Kuskokwim region, but in the
26 Yukon also. We want to learn more about these two species.
27 Working with the Department of Fish and Game, we -- the
28 refuge and Fish and Game hopefully will implement a program
29 this winter to purchase intact carcasses of wolves and
30 wolverines from trappers. What we hope to learn by doing
31 this is the age and sex of the animals trapped, the number
32 of young produced the previous year by the females, and
33 something about what the animals last fed on. But we --
34 the most important thing is really the age and sex
35 structure of the animals being harvested. Because this
36 population is rapidly growing, because of the growth of
37 moose on the Yukon, and the large numbers of caribou we
38 have along the Kuskokwim, these populations are changing,
39 and we want to learn more about these populations.

40
41 Members of the council can help us by letting
42 trappers in your villages know that we hope to start this
43 program. If we do get funding for this program, we will be
44 contacting all the villages, traditional councils, IRA
45 councils, and council members, fur sealers, everybody that
46 we can get in contact with to get the word out, but you can
47 let people know now that we're interested in this. If
48 people have any information they'd love to -- they would
49 like to pass on to us, I'm more than willing to talk to
50 people and learn more about what it is they're seeing.

1 Just to give you some quick numbers on moose
2 specifically in Unit 18, we've only managed one census on
3 the Kuskokwim River. That was done in March of 1993. The
4 census area stretched from Kwethluk on one end to Upper
5 Kalskag on the other end, and it includes the entire river
6 corridor and all the trees growing off of the river there.
7 In that census they found 49 moose. The vast majority of
8 those moose were upstream of Tuluksak. Because of
9 inconsistencies in sighting capability of moose, we did get
10 a population estimate of 217, but this number is pretty
11 suspect. We think that number was actually high. Looking
12 at the habitat that we have in this count area, we have no
13 reason to believe that it should no hold at least 2,000
14 moose in this count area, so we have a long way to go, and
15 that's why we're concerned. That's just 2,000 moose just
16 in that part of the area. That doesn't include the river
17 corridor downstream of Kwethluk, all the tributary streams
18 going up into the mountains, all the habitat that's
19 available within the Kilbuck Mountains themselves.

20
21 That's all I have, Mr. Chair, if there's any
22 questions, I'll try to answer them.

23
24 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Yeah. John Hanson.

25
26 MR. HANSON: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chairman.
27 Yeah, Steve, if you people check I think it would be
28 northwest of Bethel towards the Yukon on caribou, and
29 southwest or west of Bethel -- I guess it would be
30 southwest, it would be around Chefornek, all those places
31 for caribou?

32
33 MR. KOVACH: We -- I was getting a lot of
34 reports from the tundra villages last year of caribou, and
35 we tried making a couple of trips out there specifically
36 looking into that area. We had no radio-collared animals
37 out there at all, because I did a real -- a very high
38 altitude flight. I think we were at 11,000 feet. The
39 higher we can get, the further out we can hear the radio
40 collars. We can -- if we're high enough out, we can hear a
41 radio collar 30 miles out. So when we get high, we can
42 cover a whole lot of country just by listening, and then we
43 use those animals to help us home in on other animals. We
44 didn't have any radio collars out there, so we tried a
45 couple of just low level runs, of just running big long
46 lines out there, trying to bump into caribou, or bump into
47 caribou tracks that we could turn and follow. And we
48 didn't have much success. We found some tracks out there,
49 but we didn't have a lot of success. I hope to put more
50 effort into that this winter and whatnot, because I know

1 there's more and more animals using that country out there.
2 I'd sure like to learn more about what's going on, and, you
3 know, where they're going, how they're using it, when
4 they're moving in, when they're moving out. Without a
5 radio collar out there, it makes it pretty tough though,
6 that's a lot of country to search as you all know. But I
7 encourage people if they see animals in places that they're
8 not normally being seen, you know, call us at the refuge,
9 let me know. It helps me having more eyes out there. It
10 makes my job more efficient. I can be more efficient with
11 my aircraft time, because I don't have unlimited aircraft
12 dollars. I have to budget my dollars and use them as best
13 I can to cover -- to monitor as many animals as I can get
14 in the flight hours I have available. So if people are
15 seeing animals in places, I definitely want to hear about
16 it, because it helps us out definitely.

17
18 MR. HANSON: Like yester -- this morning,
19 there was an elder from.....

20
21 COURT REPORTER: Excuse me, Mr.
22 Hanson,.....

23
24 MR. HANSON:Chefornak.....

25
26 COURT REPORTER:could you bring that
27 microphone a little closer, please? Thank you, sir.

28
29 MR. HANSON: This morning there was an
30 elder for Chefornak that testified in front of us, and he
31 mentioned a helicopter chasing caribou that were next to
32 Chefornak there, and we questioned the guy that was sitting
33 before you on it, if it was done, but I guess they had
34 calls, telephone calls from people on that, so it must have
35 been State Fish and Wildlife that was doing it.

36
37 MR. KOVACH: It's hard to say whose
38 helicopters. You know, utilities rent helicopters from
39 time to time to get maintenance work done. The National
40 Guard runs helicopters for training mission, and there's --
41 I mean, there's a variety of things that goes on. I mean,
42 we rent helicopters for doing work ourselves, also.

43
44 MR. HANSON: Yeah, and also on this wolf
45 that people been talking about, it's not just around
46 Kuskokwim that the wolves are getting after caribou and
47 moose. Where I am, wolves disappeared a long time ago, and
48 now our moose population climbed up drastically, we're
49 getting a lot of wolves. And those wolves are getting
50 after the calves, even younger moose. During the winter

1 people track them, but they never have caught any yet. I
2 wonder if your department could either check into those
3 wolves or do something, because they're -- every year
4 they're just getting more and more.

5

6 MR. KOVACH: Well, unfortunately the Fish
7 and Wildlife Service is not in the business of predator
8 control. That's a function that's left to the State
9 Department of Fish and Game. But a natural function that's
10 going to happen when we start growing moose, when we start
11 growing caribou and things like that, when food's
12 available, something's going to come along to eat it. The
13 fact -- when we were based in St. Mary's last spring for
14 doing our moose census, and I don't know how many people I
15 talked to in St. Mary's that were telling me about, you
16 know, they've never -- you know, all of a sudden they're
17 seeing wolves right next to town, right across the river
18 from town, and so on. I says, but aren't you seeing more
19 moose? And they said, yeah, we've got moose all over the
20 place. I said, that's why you're seeing more wolves.
21 There's groceries for them. It's inevitable.

22

23 I try and keep a fairly close track of wolves in
24 the main part of the Kilbuck Mountains to see how they're
25 relating to the caribou, just to try and get an idea of how
26 much of a factor they are. Based upon the numbers of
27 caribou that we have, I don't think they're taking as many
28 as what the humans are, to tell you the truth. Last year
29 the human harvest on caribou was tremendous. We had a lot
30 of hunters catching a lot of caribou last year, and based
31 upon what I saw, the wolves weren't catching near as many
32 as what the hunters were, which is great. You know, that's
33 a good thing.

34

35 And, you know, bears take their fair share of
36 caribou as well, and they always have. Caribou just happen
37 to be in the same place the bears are in the springtime
38 when they come out of the ground and they're hungry, and so
39 bears are knocking off caribou as well. But, again, the
40 numbers that they're taking I don't think is all that high.
41 Yeah.

42

43 That could change, and as -- if our caribou
44 population peaks and starts going down, then, yes, wolves
45 will in face have more of an impact, because proportionally
46 they'll be taking more. At this point in time, with
47 growing populations, I'm not seeing much of an effect. If
48 people have an area where they think there's a lot going
49 on, then again please call us and let us know so we can go
50 take a look, and we might find a new place that will teach

1 us something.

2

3 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Yeah, I think, Steve, I
4 think moose are increasing fast. Right in the village of
5 Mountain Village, these four wolves right in -- from my
6 house is I think is less than a quarter mile. Right in
7 behind the store, right in the old airport. They've been
8 -- we had to alert our people not to walk around at night
9 time, especially our children. There -- these are about
10 four of them. And it -- something it have to be done.
11 This is the second year, what happening up there, and they
12 kill one of the dogs up there that are tied up towards the
13 end of the village there. I call Bethel Fish and Wildlife
14 Service, and asked them, because people been calling, what
15 to do and all that, because they're endangering people in
16 Mountain Village.

17

18 MR. KOVACH: Is this occurring during the
19 wintertime or during the summertime?

20

21 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: No, it was about a
22 month ago or last month. Last month.

23

24 MR. KOVACH: Okay. So it's summertime.
25 Well, an interesting thing with wolves and dogs, wolves
26 view dogs like they view -- they think they're just a
27 coyote. Well, wolves and coyotes don't get along at all.
28 Wolves, if they come across a coyote, will kill the coyote.
29 Most often they don't even eat the animal. They just leave
30 it. They just don't get along at all. They're bad
31 neighbors. And so when wolves encounter dogs, many times
32 they view the dog just like a coyote, and that's why we
33 have a lot of attacks by wolves on dogs, because of this
34 social phenomenon between wolves and coyotes.

35

36 The only thing I can suggest, Harry, is, you know,
37 wolf trapping season opens the first of November. Whoever
38 in town who's a wolf trapper, get them out there and have
39 him get those wolves. You know, you hammer them hard in
40 the wintertime, you probably won't see much during the
41 summertime and whatnot. But, you know, in the summertime
42 they're traveling a lot, too. They're trying to find food,
43 too, so.....

44

45 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: James?

46

47 MR. CHARLES: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
48 Steve, is it wolf hunting or trapping only, or not by
49 shooting?

50

1 MR. KOVACH: There's -- wolves are
2 classified a couple of different ways. Under the federal
3 subsistence regulations, you can hunt them, there's a
4 hunting season. Thank you. There it is. There's a
5 hunting season in the federal subsistence regulations of
6 August 10th through April 30th, and all you need is a
7 hunting license for that. The trapping season starts I
8 think it's the 1st of November, it might be the 10th of
9 November, I can't remember. And it goes through the end of
10 April. Under a trapping license you can trap or shoot.

11
12 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Got some more.

13
14 MR. KOVACH: Thank you. I get lots of help
15 here. I love it. No, trapping regs, that's what I want.
16 November 10th through March 31st. Thank you. My
17 supporting cast here. But under a trapping license, during
18 the trapping season, you can either shoot or trap. Traps
19 means steel traps or snares or whatever. During the
20 hunting season, under a hunting -- you can only use a
21 hunting license, and you can only shoot at that time. So
22 it's kind of a combination of things. Under the federal
23 subsistence regs, of course, as you all well know, under --
24 on federal public lands, which means you've got to be
25 outside of the corporation lands, you know, you can use a
26 hunting license any time contiguous August 10th through the
27 30th of April. It's a little confusing I know.

28
29 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Billy?

30
31 MR. McCANN: Yeah, did you hear about the
32 -- Upper Kalskag or Lower Kalskag, which?

33
34 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Chuathbaluk.

35
36 MR. KOVACH: Chuathbaluk?

37
38 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Chuathbaluk?

39
40 MR. McCANN: Chuathbaluk. Wolves are
41 eating up tied dogs, it was -- maybe it was seven of them?

42
43 MR. KOVACH: Yeah, I got a call from
44 Chuathbaluk. They couldn't get ahold of Roger Seavoy at
45 Fish and Game, so they called me. And I explained to them
46 what I just explained to the council here about the social
47 relationships of wolves and coyotes, and how they're just
48 basically viewing the dogs as coyotes. Very unusual
49 situation I think in Chuathbaluk this summer where they had
50 a fairly large group of wolves. Nobody could really tell

1 me how big it was. I got numbers anywhere from four to 12.
2 I'm not quite sure how big the group was, because I don't
3 think anybody there in Chuathbaluk could really agree on
4 how big the group was. But it kind of -- it's very unusual
5 for them to be coming into a town like that summer or
6 winter. Wolves are normally pretty shy animals, as anybody
7 here who's tried to come across -- or has come across a
8 wolf in the wintertime. They don't stick around very darn
9 young.

10

11 MR. McCANN: Some old people usually
12 telling us about like fox or wolf or when they're hungry
13 and they're not scared of people, they're trying to find
14 food.

15

16 MR. KOVACH: That -- you know, when an
17 animal gets hungry, it gets very, very brave, because it's
18 driven by hunger, it's driven by a very real survival need,
19 and when an animal's real hungry, it starts getting very
20 brave. It starts doing things it normally would not do. I
21 suspect that's maybe what happened with the Chuathbaluk
22 situation, but I don't know. You know, I don't know where
23 the caribou were this summer at that point in time.
24 There's animals that normally summer in the nearby
25 vicinity. Maybe they didn't do that this year, I don't
26 know. May want to.....

27

28 MR. McCANN: (Indiscernible - simultaneous
29 speech) go hunting.

30

31 MR. KOVACH:there's so many variables
32 in there, it's -- I don't know.

33

34 MR. McCANN: You don't have any way to
35 count them or record or something like or where they're
36 growing up or gaining or population gaining or what?

37

38 MR. KOVACH: You know, we have no formal
39 method of monitoring wolf population size out on the delta
40 at this time. Our snow cover's so inconsistent. There are
41 techniques that have been developed in the Interior, and
42 I'm attempting to adapt those techniques onto the delta,
43 taking advantage of fresh snow falls, because you need real
44 fresh snow in order to make this technique work. I'm
45 hoping this winter to spend some time working on it, and
46 trying to perfect a system that will work for us, so we can
47 start trying to do something. Just from the observations I
48 make when I go out in the field, whether by boat or by
49 flying, talking with subsistence users up and down the
50 Kuskokwim as well as the Yukon River, there -- we

1 definitely have more wolves than we had before, even just
2 five years ago. Looking at the trapper harvest, it --
3 three years ago it skyrocketed. To give you an example,
4 wolverine, if we seal ten wolverine in all of Unit 18 in a
5 year, that was a lot. Two years ago I think we sealed 50.
6 I mean, there's a lot more predators out there, and it's
7 because there's more food out there. Exactly how many, I
8 can't tell you. I just know there's more.

9

10 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Thank you, Steve.

11

12 MR. KOVACH: Thank you, Mr. Chair.

13

14 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: (In Yup'ik) Togiak NWR
15 staff report, Andy Aderman.

16

17 MR. ADERMAN: Thank you, Mr. Chairman and
18 council members. My name is Andy Aderman. I'm a wildlife
19 biologist with Togiak National Wildlife Refuge, based in
20 Dillingham. As you may know, the Togiak National Wildlife
21 Refuge is split between your region and the Bristol Bay
22 Region.

23

24 I want to briefly talk about four areas or projects
25 that the refuge is involved with, and a common theme about
26 all these projects are that they are cooperative in nature.

27

28 The first of these is our public use management
29 plan. We continue to have a river ranger project on our
30 three main rivers, the Kanektok, Goodnews and Togiak.
31 Again this year the refuge entered into a cooperative
32 agreement with the Village of Quinhagak whereby a resident
33 of Quinhagak worked side by side with a Fish and Wildlife
34 person as a river ranger on the Kanektok River.

35

36 I also wanted to mention that our public use
37 management plan is being revised, concurrent with the
38 refuge comprehensive conservation plan. There will be some
39 public meetings this fall and winter in the villages to get
40 input from the public. there will also be a refuge
41 newsletter distributed giving out information on the
42 revision process. And something new to the revision
43 process that we've not done a good job of in the past, we
44 have a core planning team, and we will have a
45 representative from Quinhagak, from Goodnews, from Togiak,
46 from Manokotak sit on that core planning team.

47

48 The second area I wanted to cover was education and
49 outreach. This year we held to environmental education
50 camps, one at Cape Peirce, the other at Cape Constantine.

1 The one at Cape Peirce we've done now for six years, and we
2 look at seabirds, marine mammals. We involve elders along
3 with Fish and Wildlife staff. And so far in the past we've
4 involved students from Togiak, Eek and Goodnews. And we
5 look forward to expanding out into other villages. The
6 camp at Cape Constantine focuses more on caribou, and we've
7 run this now for three years. And again we have elders
8 from the villages along with Fish and Wildlife staff, and
9 we've had students from Dillingham and Manokotak.

10

11 And I might also mention, too, that our RITs do a
12 lot of work in the villages, in the school. In fact today
13 several of our RITs were in the schools here giving
14 presentations.

15

16 The third area I'd like to cover is fisheries. And
17 again our fisheries projects are cooperative, working with
18 the state and also with the Native Village of Quinhagak.
19 This is the third year that we have supported or funded or
20 helped fund the floating weir on the Goodnews River. I
21 understand that last year, 1998, the Goodnews weir and the
22 Andreafsky weir were the only two weirs that were
23 functional in the Y-K Delta region.

24

25 We've also provided support for the monitoring
26 project on the Kanektok River here. It was a counting
27 tower as I understand. And it will be -- or there's plans
28 now to have a weir next year, and a number of other
29 cooperators are involved in with that. The coastal
30 villages CDQ group, Bering Sea Fishermen's Association, and
31 the Native Village of Quinhagak.

32

33 Another project in fisheries, this is over in the
34 Bristol Bay region, specifically in the Togiak drainage, is
35 a dolly varden life history study. We began this study
36 last year to look at the migratory behavior and the run
37 composition of dolly varden in the Togiak drainage. Staff
38 tagged 1200 dolly varden, and also put transmitters in 97 I
39 believe. Yes, 97. And they are monitoring those fish to
40 see where they spawn, where they go and when they go back
41 to salt water, and when they return. And they found some
42 pretty interesting things within the Togiak drainage, but
43 also some of the fish that they tagged there have shown up
44 in other places. They had a fish show up in a set net on
45 the beach of Egegik. They had a fish that was tagged two
46 years ago show up in the Kanektok River, about 20 miles
47 from where we sit. And they've also had a fish show up in
48 the Eek River.

49

50 The last area that I would like to cover is

1 wildlife. We're involved with many different species of
2 wildlife, but I was only going to talk about moose, and
3 specifically again in the Togiak drainage. And this is the
4 area that drains between Cape Newenham and Cape
5 Constantine. For quite a while there weren't very many
6 moose in that area, and the season was closed in 1980. And
7 then it kind of stayed the same way up until the early 90s.
8 There was moose there, but they were getting harvested.
9 But then things started to change around in the early 90s.
10 In 1992 the refuge counted six moose. This year, 1999, in
11 March, we counted over 500. We heard Paul talk earlier
12 about some of the reasons why this increase occurred. And
13 again we have pretty good habitat in the Togiak drainage.
14 We've had some easy winters, not much snow. That makes it
15 easy on moose. Makes it tough for people to get around on
16 snow-goes. We had a good moose population nearby, a place
17 where the moose came from to go into the Togiak drainage.
18 We've had these caribou come around that offers people
19 something else to shoot besides moose.

20

21 But I think, Mr. Chairman, the biggest reason was
22 the change in attitude that Paul mentioned. People over in
23 Dillingham, Aleknagik, Manokotak, voluntarily restricted
24 themselves. They didn't hunt moose in their winter
25 traditional area. People in Togiak said, no, we're not
26 going to shoot cow moose. And I think that's the reason
27 why we have the moose that we do in there right now.

28

29 Along with the moose, we knew that the numbers were
30 increasing. We didn't know a real lot about moose other
31 than the numbers were increasing, so we began a study last
32 year. We put out 36 radio collars, mostly on cows. And
33 from this we can get the number of calves that are being
34 born, and how many of those calves are still alive six
35 months later. This year we had a lot of calves born. It
36 works out to 139 calves per 100 cows. In real numbers what
37 this means is out of 18 cows that had radio collars, 13 of
38 them had calves. Out of the 13 that had calves, 12 had
39 twins. We will check on those calves here in the next
40 month or two to see how many are still alive.

41

42 Some of the other information, of course, we get is
43 where are moose going at what times of the year? About
44 one-quarter of the moose have gone back to -- or have gone
45 into Unit 17(C), which is right around Dillingham, but most
46 of them come back to 17(A), the Togiak drainage. We had
47 two moose that came over to Unit 18, one along the
48 Kwethluk, one in the Goodnews drainage. They didn't return
49 to 17(A), because they were shot. I'm not saying that they
50 would have stayed in Unit 18, they may have gone back to

1 17(A), it's hard to tell.

2

3 With all these moose now, we've had a hunting
4 season starting in 1997 in the Togiak drainage. Again, it
5 was closed 1980 to 1997, 16 years. And we're working with
6 the Togiak fish and game advisory committee, the Nushagak
7 fish and game advisory committee, Bristol Bay Regional
8 Council, and Fish and Game on a draft management plan that
9 sets out where we want to go with this moose population,
10 how are we going to get there, what are hunting seasons
11 going to be like, and I think it's a pretty good success
12 story, and I look forward to the increase. We're still not
13 where we want to be, but we're getting there awful quick.
14 And with that, I guess I'll shut up and entertain any
15 questions if you have some.

16

17 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Council, do you have
18 questions to Andy?

19

20 MS. GREGORY: I have a question.

21

22 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Mary Gregory.

23

24 MS. GREGORY: On your report, unguided
25 visitors, that sounds like a tourism to me. How do you
26 mean by unguided visitors? Because the cultures and the
27 land use and everything else, safety, trespass, all those
28 things are explained. Can you elaborate?

29

30 MR. ADERMAN: An unguided visitor is
31 somebody that does the trip on their own, as opposed to
32 somebody that hires a guide to take them to a specific
33 area. I don't know if I answered you question?

34

35 MS. GREGORY: (In Yup'ik)

36

37 INTERPRETER: Mary said that, you know, it
38 sounds like -- more like a tourist issue. Tourism.

39

40 MS. GREGORY: I know it would be good for
41 educational purposes, but not for just anybody off the
42 United States, or Lower 48 or somewhere else to come and do
43 that without public knowledges, off hand for me.

44

45 MR. ADERMAN: Well, maybe I can explain
46 further. As you may be aware, the Kanektok River, the
47 Goodnews River, the Togiak River and other rivers in
48 Southwest Alaska are popular fishing destinations for
49 people around the world. Some of those people go with
50 guides, some don't. That's what I alluded to in the first

1 issue I discussed, the public use management plan. We're
2 taking another look at that, the amount of use on the
3 rivers, and that's what we're interested in the public
4 commenting on. Some people want more use, many people want
5 less use.

6

7 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Thank you, Andy. We're
8 down to Item C, Regional Team report, Helen Armstrong, Dave
9 Fisher. I wouldn't name John though. John Andrew.

10

11 MS. ARMSTRONG: Thank you, Mr. Chair, I'm
12 going to go first on the cooperative agreements. I'm
13 speaking on behalf of Pat. We did complete a cooperative
14 agreement just recently with AVCP, and Pat gave -- talked
15 to me about it before she left. She was quite pleased with
16 the results and said that Michelle had really done a good
17 job in pulling that together.

18

19 The other cooperative agreement we have is with the
20 state Fish and Game, Subsistence Division, and I'm going to
21 -- when Mike Coffing talks about his report on that study,
22 he'll fill you in on the details as to where they are on
23 that study. That's all I have. Thank you.

24

25 John, are you going to talk about the outreach?
26 The.....

27

28 MR. ANDREW: Yeah, I'll do the outreach
29 portion. Thank you.

30

31 MS. ARMSTRONG: Okay.

32

33 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Dave, you're going to
34 talk about this with the big horn, the one I caught (ph)?

35

36 MR. FISHER: Yes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
37 We have an issue here that we want to discuss, and we want
38 you to think about it, and then I think in our winter
39 meeting, we're going to want to -- we're going to come back
40 with a decision from you people for the Federal Subsistence
41 Board. But in 1998, the Cooper River Native Association
42 submitted a proposal to modify the possession and
43 transportation of wildlife to eliminate the evidence of the
44 sex requirement for moose in Units 11 and 13. Its current
45 regulations requires that hunters who harvest moose leave
46 the external sex organs attached to the moose carcass
47 during bull only harvest. The Federal Subsistence Board
48 has discussed this issue several times, and in May 1999
49 they deferred any action on this pending more information
50 from the regional advisory councils, and to work more

1 closely with Fish and Game on it. The State of Alaska has
2 an identical regulation for their moose hunters also.

3

4 The Federal Subsistence Board dealt with this issue
5 on two previous occasions, and on each occasion they voted
6 to retain evidence of the sex requirement, and the
7 reasoning was that they thought it was a reasonable
8 requirement necessary to protect moose populations, and it
9 was also present in state regulations. Apparently they
10 didn't want to have one agency have the requirement, and
11 then another agency not have the requirement, trying to
12 make it easier for the hunters to just follow one
13 regulation.

14

15 In looking at the regulation, we have a couple
16 questions we need to discuss a little bit. Why has this
17 regulation been opposed in the past, and why is it
18 presently being opposed? Leaving the male sex organ
19 attached spoils the adjacent meat, especially during the
20 rut. Retaining the male sex organs of a moose is not a
21 customary and traditional practice in many regions of the
22 State of Alaska. Most subsistence hunters currently bring
23 in the antlers due to their economic value in today's
24 market. Retaining male sex organs is a culturally
25 offensive practice, and subsistence hunters should be
26 trusted to be able to tell bulls from cows. So these are
27 reasons why people are opposing the current regulation.

28

29 On the other hand, why should we keep the
30 regulation in place? Cows are protected in unstable or
31 otherwise weak local moose populations by providing a means
32 to ensure compliance with a bull only harvest. It provides
33 an option for subsistence hunters to leave antlers in the
34 field rather than bring them home. December through
35 February harvest, as you know, most bulls have lost their
36 antlers, and subsistence harvest of antlerless bulls or
37 even sport harvest for that matter can be monitored.
38 Currently federal regulations are consistent with state
39 regulations, which simplifies requirements for hunters,
40 whether they're hunting on state or federal lands.

41

42 And what I would like from the council, I'll read
43 sort of four little things here that we should consider,
44 and then I'd like a little bit of discussion from you
45 people, and I'll take that back and then we'll probably
46 have a decision, you people will have to make a decision at
47 our next meeting, but some things we should consider here
48 tonight, this regulation serves a purpose of protecting cow
49 moose in bull-only harvest strategies. Should this
50 regulation be changed on a statewide basis, or should it

1 remain a regional issue? Would it be a problem for local
2 subsistence users if this requirement were eliminated in
3 federal regulations, and -- but left in place in state
4 regulations? What kind of confusion, or what would that
5 cause? And, finally, if no viable alternatives are
6 proposed, will you be willing to give up the opportunity to
7 harvest antlerless bulls during the winter in certain areas
8 to protect weak populations as a trade-off for eliminating
9 this regulation statewide? So those are sort of some
10 discussion points, so go ahead and discuss it, and I'll
11 take some notes.

12
13 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Council, there's any --
14 Nick? Robert Nick?

15
16 MR. NICK: Dave, I'll go backwards in your
17 questions. In the winter opening, is it always considered
18 an antlerless moose harvest season in the wintertime?

19
20 MR. FISHER: Well, those seasons in
21 December through February are often considered antlerless,
22 because the bulls have lost their antlers, or shed their
23 antlers. So that's one of the reasons why retaining the --
24 why they've retained the requirement.

25
26 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman?

27
28 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Lester.

29
30 MR. L. WILDE: State Fish and Game,
31 somebody in fur department. Of all the antlerless, I'll
32 get that right, antler- -- well, maybe I won't, but anyway,
33 in the areas where you have antlerless moose harvest,
34 doesn't that -- isn't that designated for female moose in
35 upper Yukon where they have an antlerless moose harvest?

36
37 MR. COFFING: Mr. Chairman, Mike Coffing,
38 Fish and Game. Maybe to clarify a little bit, back up a
39 little bit to clarify something Dave said. I'm looking at
40 the federal reg book for Unit 18, and often what is stated
41 there is not antlerless, so we don't have to say that, but
42 it's one bull, but evidence of sex is required. So often
43 that's the way the way the regulation is read in the
44 regulation book.

45
46 MR. L. WILDE: One bull that is antlerless?

47
48 MR. COFFING: No. Forget antlerless for a
49 minute. Let's maybe drop that from the discussion right
50 now. The regulations read one bull, and that would be an

1 example of the winter season we have in Unit 18 here. It
2 reads one bull, but evidence of sex is required. So what
3 that would allow you to do is shoot a bull that doesn't
4 have antlers, but you still have to prove that you got a
5 bull by having evidence of sex. Understand?

6

7 MR. L. WILDE: Well, what I was asking was
8 don't you have an antlerless moose harvest in the upper
9 Yukon around Kusko -- Russian Mission?

10

11 MR. COFFING: Well, you're talking about
12 Unit 21 maybe?

13

14 MR. L. WILDE: Yeah, maybe that's what I'm
15 talking about, and doesn't that refer to cow moose?

16

17 MR. COFFING: Well, let me take a look
18 here. I'm looking in the federal reg book, and I may need
19 to look at the state reg book, too, but the federal reg
20 book for Unit 21(E) and 21, they all say -- 21(A) says one
21 bull, 21(B) and (C) says one antlered bull, 21(D) says one
22 moose, so there you can be either bull or cow, 21(E) says
23 one bull -- excuse me, it says one moose, but only bulls
24 during the fall season, and it can be a moose during the
25 winter season, bulls or cows. So, see they're not using
26 the word antlerless in the regulation book here. And the
27 reason I think is because you can have both bulls and cows
28 with no antlers. Obviously cows don't have antlers, and
29 bulls sometimes don't have antlers, but you'd have an open
30 season on them. So sorry for the confusion on the
31 antlerless part.

32

33 MR. FISHER: It is confusing.

34

35 MR. COFFING: I got thoroughly confused.

36

37 MR. L. WILDE: Well, I'm still confused. I
38 was talking to a resident of 21, or 21(E), and they stated
39 that there was a legal harvest of cow moose, is that
40 correct?

41

42 MR. COFFING: That is correct, sir.

43

44 MR. L. WILDE: And isn't that known in some
45 areas as antlerless moose harvest?

46

47 MR. COFFING: Certainly not in the area
48 that we're familiar with around the Yukon Delta, including
49 Unit 21, they don't -- in the regulation we don't refer to
50 that as antlerless moose. Simply a moose. You could take

1 either a bull or a cow if it's a moose bag limit. However,
2 if it's -- if it has to be a bull, the regulation will say
3 one bull, but evidence of sex is required.

4

5 MR. L. WILDE: That would be -- I'm glad
6 I'm not up there hunting those antlerless moose. I'd need
7 a pair of powerful binoculars to find out which species of
8 animal I'm shooting. I mean, how can you justify hunting
9 moose in that area when you don't know whether -- it's hard
10 to tell whether it's a cow or a moose -- I mean, cow or a
11 bull?

12

13 MR. COFFING: Mr. Chairman, if I may, some
14 hunters have told us that they can tell, that they can tell
15 the difference, and they're subsistence hunters, and they
16 know a cow from a bull.

17

18 MR. FISHER: They'll swear up and down they
19 can tell.

20

21 MR. COFFING: Pardon me?

22

23 MR. FISHER: They'll swear up and down,
24 I've had them swear up and down to me that they can tell
25 the difference.

26

27 MR. COFFING: So if the population can
28 sustain the harvest, we could go along with that, but the
29 hunter has to be sure it's a bull, and has to provide
30 evidence of that after the animal is taken.

31

32 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Okay. Thank you.
33 Johnny Thompson?

34

35 MR. THOMPSON: You guys, you make me kind
36 of confused in this winter season. Two years ago I went up
37 21(E) and the boys got me a moose, so I didn't. Then I
38 told this guy, I was really tempted to kill that cow moose
39 that was right on the beach, that I know that this cow was
40 an old cow. And he told me, you could come back sometime
41 this winter and kill that cow. That's where I got kind of
42 confused.

43

44 MR. COFFING: Do you want me to clear your
45 confusion?

46

47 MR. THOMPSON: Well, you know, it's sort of
48 dull (ph) in my.....

49

50 MR. COFFING: Do you want to translate?

1 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Nick?

2

3 MR. A. NICK: Mr. Chairman, to make things
4 a little short for my friend Mike over here, I think what
5 Lester.....

6

7 COURT REPORTER: (Indiscernible) Thank
8 you.

9

10 MR. A. NICK: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To
11 make things a little short in this discussion, I think what
12 Lester Wilde is referring to is the one-half mile
13 requirement in the Innoko River, up in 21(E) in the
14 wintertime, because in wintertime the regulation states
15 that there is, you know, you can harvest in February, you
16 can harvest one moose in that area. Is that right, Steve?

17

18 MR. KOVACH: I'm sorry?

19

20 MR. A. NICK: Is that right? The
21 regulation says that, you know, you may harvest one moose
22 in 21(E) in February season?

23

24 MR. KOVACH: Right.

25

26 MR. FISHER: That's correct.

27

28 MR. A. NICK: But you would be required to
29 catch that one-half mile from the banks of the river, and
30 if -- even if you -- if your moose is legal, then you will
31 be pinched if it's within that one-quarter mile, I'm sorry.
32 One-quarter mile from the banks of the river.

33

34 MR. FISHER: One-half mile.

35

36 MS. ARMSTRONG: One-half mile.

37

38 MR. A. NICK: One-half mile?

39

40 MS. ARMSTRONG: Yes.

41

42 MR. A. NICK: One-half mile, okay. I stand
43 corrected. I think that that person who might have been
44 given citation might have caught that within that
45 restriction maybe. That's what I thought might make our
46 discussion a little shorter maybe.

47

48 MR. COFFING: Yeah, make it longer here.
49 Well, I'll let Lester speak for himself. If you had a
50 question about the corridor, we can talk about that. If

00170

1 you want to talk about moose and bulls, which is what we're
2 talking.....

3

4 MR. L. WILDE: I was kind of referring to
5 -- or discussing it because of this, you know, this
6 regulation says the purpose of protecting cow -- it had
7 something to do with this anyway, and something that Dave
8 said about if no viable alternatives are proposed to
9 question one, would you be willing to give up the
10 opportunity to harvest antlerless, I'll get that one of
11 these days, moose in winter, but I could see where a person
12 could probably possibly tell the difference between a cow
13 and a bull.

14

15 MR. COFFING: I think I.....

16

17 MR. L. WILDE: I think you weren't
18 listening to me, were you?

19

20 MR. COFFING: No, I follow you. And I
21 think the confusion comes in because in option number four,
22 that's the only place I see antlerless used, and maybe we
23 need -- I'll let Dave follow up on this if he wants, but
24 really what we're talking about is if you want -- if
25 there's no alternative, if it's just what's proposed up
26 here in question one, then essentially to protect the moose
27 population, you don't want to shoot cows in the winter.
28 That's kind of what I think the federal program and the
29 state program is saying in areas where it's bulls only.
30 And if it is bulls only, one of the things that could
31 happen here is if people can't tell a bull from a cow, and
32 if they're not required to keep evidence of sex, then they
33 may have to forego having that bull season.

34

35 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Well, Mike, from an old
36 timer moose under -- when a moose drop his antlers, you've
37 got to go to the very close to tell between a cow and a
38 bull when a bull doesn't have any horns. You've got to
39 come very close to it, especially during -- inside
40 kind.....

41

42 MR. COFFING: Uh-huh.

43

44 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE:of willows, it's
45 hard to see. So I think that at certain time that -- when
46 the bull drops his antlers, it have to be some way that
47 antlerless moose, you could find, you have to go right
48 close to it. But if you see it farther away over, it's
49 kind of hard to see if it's a cow or a bull. I think
50 sometimes that people kind of make a mistake on between an

1 antlerless and a bull and a cow either. If there's any way
2 that -- I think that this something that the question would
3 be answered. Antlerless and antlerless bull.

4

5 MR. L. WILDE: Mr. Chairman, my feeling is
6 that, you know, that the -- You know, we've harvested moose
7 just about every year, and it's not really that much of a
8 problem to leave the organ on there, the sex organ on there
9 for -- and -- you know, as far as identification of what
10 sex the moose is, and we've never had any problems with
11 that. And if there was two regulations, one of the state
12 saying that there must be -- the sex order must be left on
13 the moose, there would be -- I could see where there would
14 be some confusion in that.

15

16 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: If it was what?

17

18 MR. FISHER: The federal regulation, it
19 wasn't required, and it was required in state regulation.

20

21 MR. L. WILDE: Right.

22

23 MR. FISHER: Right. It could cause some
24 confusion. Like Harry said, it's hard enough to tell,
25 you've got to be real close to tell what sex, especially if
26 it's a bull that's dropped its antlers, that you've got to
27 be close. And then you aren't sure whether you're on
28 federal or state lands, which requirement's going to be,
29 you know, so it could be real confusing.

30

31 MR. L. WILDE: Well, my feeling's that
32 we've got to do it in our area, why shouldn't they be
33 eliminated in their area, you know? Let's make it all the
34 same.

35

36 MR. FISHER: So you'd be in favor of
37 retaining the requirement?

38

39 MR. L. WILDE: I would be in favor of
40 retaining the requirement.

41

42 MR. NICK: Mr. Chair?

43

44 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Robert Nick?

45

46 MR. NICK: There's an old guy at home
47 before each hunting trip I go to, and I also go to him, you
48 know, to get some advice, and then when he used to go
49 hunting, you know, just by looking at the track, you know,
50 he would tell me that it's a cow or a bull. I don't know

1 how he tells it, but really they all look the same.

2

3 But anyway, you indicated at the beginning in your
4 presentation that this request has come to the council
5 twice, and has not -- you know, they've.....

6

7 MR. FISHER: Well, the Federal Subsistence
8 Board has discussed this issue twice, and they've retained
9 the requirement.

10

11 MR. NICK: Okay.

12

13 MR. FISHER: Currently it's come up again,
14 and they want more -- some more input from you people.

15

16 MR. NICK: I think in efforts of protecting
17 the population, I would agree with Lester, that we keep the
18 requirement, and then keep the requirements with state and
19 federal regulations the same.

20

21 MR. FISHER: Okay. Is that pretty much the
22 feeling of the council?

23

24 MR. HANSON: Yes.

25

26 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Motion (In Yup'ik).

27

28 MR. NICK: I move that we maintain the
29 current regulation on the requirements.

30

31 MR. FISHER: Okay. Thank you very much for
32 letting me discuss this, and I'll report back to our office
33 and we'll go from there, but I appreciate your input.

34

35 MR. NICK: Mr. Dave, you're out of order, I
36 made a motion.

37

38 MR. L. WILDE: I'll second that
39 motion,.....

40

41 MR. FISHER: Excuse me.

42

43 MR. L. WILDE:Mr. Chairman.

44

45 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: There's a motion by
46 Robert Nick, and a second by Lester Wilde. If there's any
47 discussion on the motion?

48

49 UNIDENTIFIED VOICE: Question.

50

1 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: The question's been
2 called for. I request roll call.

3
4 MR. ANDREW: (In Yup'ik)

5
6 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

7
8 MR. GEORGE: Harry Wilde?

9
10 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Yes.

11
12 MR. GEORGE: James Charles?

13
14 MR. CHARLES: Yes.

15
16 MR. GEORGE: John Hanson?

17
18 MR. HANSON: Yes.

19
20 MR. GEORGE: Mary Gregory?

21
22 MS. GREGORY: No.

23
24 MR. GEORGE: (In Yup'ik). Abstain.

25 Willard Church?

26
27 MR. CHURCH: Yes.

28
29 MR. GEORGE: Billy McCann?

30
31 MR. McCANN: Yes.

32
33 MR. GEORGE: Robert Nick?

34
35 MR. NICK: Yes. And I'll qualify my vote.

36 I'm the one that's out there in the bushes, I'm the one
37 that's butchering it, so I have no problem.

38
39 MR. GEORGE: Johnny Thompson?

40
41 MR. THOMPSON: Yes.

42
43 MR. GEORGE: Phillip Moses?

44
45 MR. MOSES: Yeah.

46
47 MR. GEORGE: Lester Wilde?

48
49 MR. L. WILDE: Yes.

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1 MR. GEORGE: Alvin Oweltuck?

2
3 MR. OWELTUCK: Yes.

4
5 MR. GEORGE: Thadius Tikiun?

6
7 MR. TIKIUN: Yes.

8
9 MR. GEORGE: Mr. Chairman, 11 yes, one no,
10 one abstain. The motion carried.

11
12 MR. FISHER: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm
13 sorry I interrupted you earlier.

14
15 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Okay. Thank you. Next
16 on our agenda is outreach field work. I think after this
17 we'll -- we're going to take.....

18
19 MR. ANDREW: Helen, do you want me to cover
20 c&t field work, or are you going to cover portions of
21 the.....

22
23 MS. ARMSTRONG: I'm going to cover it.

24
25 MR. ANDREW: Okay. I'll do the, okay,
26 fieldwork.

27
28 MS. GREGORY: Can you turn that thing down?

29
30 MR. ANDREW: Mr. Chairman, (In Yup'ik).
31 I'll cover portions where c&t field work (In Yup'ik). The
32 last three years -- oh. (In Yup'ik).

33
34 MR. A. NICK: Mr. Chairman? Is he going to
35 translate that into English, or do you have it written down
36 somewhere?

37
38 MR. ANDREW: No. (In Yup'ik) 'Cause c&t
39 paperworks are -- start over in the Anchorage office. I
40 don't have it down in writing, but I'll do it off my
41 memory. And.....

42
43 MR. A. NICK: Okay. Are you going to
44 translate that into English?

45
46 MR. ANDREW: Ee-ee.

47
48 MR. A. NICK: Okay. (In Yup'ik)

49
50 MR. ANDREW: (In Yup'ik) Okay? Thank you.

1 (In Yup'ik)

2

3 INTERPRETER: The regional teams, I have
4 co-team members, Dave Fisher and Pat McClenahan who is
5 anthropologist, and Helen Armstrong is here taking place of
6 Pat. And.....

7

8 MR. ANDREW: And I thank my regional team
9 for being there for me. Thank you. And as far as our
10 fieldwork on c&t projects, (In Yup'ik). I'm sorry. I was
11 supposed to say it in Yup'ik, and (In Yup'ik)

12

13 INTERPRETER: In the villages that is
14 subsistence issues, what we talk about and inquire about
15 big games such as caribou, moose, black bear, brown bear.
16 The last three years the proposals that were deferred,
17 proposed by the Village of Akiak on the c&t, customary and
18 traditional use determination around Kisaralik and Kwethluk
19 Rivers. The Federal Board directed the staff to go to the
20 villages and gather the information regarding these
21 concerns. Since then we've travelled from Tuluksak, Akiak,
22 Kwethluk, Bethel, Napakiak, Tuntutuliak, and then the
23 coastal area of Eek, Quinhagak. We gathered information on
24 caribou, customary and traditional use determinations. We
25 completed the outreach on that, and also analysis were done
26 by Pat. And there's also c&t for Hooper Bay and around
27 north of Yukon River for caribou.

28

29 Down in the Nelson Island, we're going to begin in
30 Nelson Island probably about caribou, bear, brown bear in
31 Nelson Island. In the village -- rather in Nelson Island,
32 we've gone so far to the Village of Toksook Bay. The other
33 place we need to go to is Tununak, Toksook -- rather Ukak,
34 Tununak, and Nightmute. We will be -- we will be
35 travelling to do c&t outreach to the -- to the other
36 communities, including Tuntutuliak, and the villages that
37 were -- he had mentioned that will be visited this fall.

38

39 A Division -- the -- one of the Fish and Game
40 staff, Mike Coffing, is working on the one for the Village
41 of Akiachak. If you all have any questions?

42

43 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Quyana, John.

44

45 MR. ANDREW: Ee-ee, Quyana.

46

47 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: (In Yup'ik)

48

49 INTERPRETER: And we're onto number 3 under
50 C, Alaska Department of Fish and Game, statewide and area

1 biologists. A., Subsistence Division, Akiachak customary.

2

3 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: We're down to Alaska
4 Department of Fish and Game, statewide and area biologists.
5 A., Subsistence Division, acatcho (ph), customary and
6 traditional use study. Mike? Mike Coffing.

7

8 MR. COFFING: Yes, sir, thank you, Mr.
9 Chairman. Got a lot of feedback here. I want to -- Helen
10 Armstrong kindly reminded me that the reason we were on the
11 antlerless moose discussion was there are some units, Unite
12 9, 16, 22, 23 and 24 in the federal regs do use the word
13 antlerless, so that's why the federal people are talking
14 about that, okay.

15

16 Now, on to Akiachak.

17

18 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: We can hear it from
19 here.

20

21 MR. COFFING: Okay, is this better?

22

23 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Yeah.

24

25 MR. COFFING: Okay. Mr. Chairman, what I
26 want to do today, my name is Michael Coffing, I'm with the
27 Subsistence Division Office, Department of Fish and Game in
28 Bethel. I want to give you a brief update of what I've
29 been involved with since I talked to you last winter at
30 your spring meeting, and talk to you a little bit more in
31 detail about the Akiachak cooperative project here. Since
32 I saw you last spring, I've been involved in several
33 cooperative projects, two that involved -- have involved
34 gathering data on seals and sea lions. This past late
35 winter, early spring, I worked with the councils in Emmonak
36 and Hooper Bay, and here in Quinhagak, and working with
37 those communities, we hired two individuals in each of
38 those communities who conducted household surveys, asking
39 people what they harvested in terms of seals and sea lions.
40 And this was the second year that we worked through that
41 project. The project was funded through the National
42 Marine Fisheries Service who manage seals and sea lions.
43 And we just finished the report last week for the data we
44 collected this past spring, and I'll be getting that report
45 out to the communities so they can see what was harvested.
46 Good information.

47

48 In short, seal harvest in -- now, this was 1998,
49 calendar year 1998, harvest were down over the previous
50 year. that mirrors exactly what people told us were

1 happening, and 1998 as you might remember was a year when
2 Hooper Bay, Chevak and Scammon had a very poor salmon
3 harvest. Salmon was flown to those communities for
4 subsistence use, and they also had a very poor seal harvest
5 that year.

6

7 On to Akiachak. Last winter we began a cooperative
8 project in Akiachak. It was a joint effort between the
9 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, who actually funded the
10 project, provided the money for it. I provided the kind of
11 on-site supervision, our Division provided the sampling
12 design, the survey design, methodology. We'll be doing the
13 write up and the analysis and providing that information to
14 the Fish and Wildlife Service. You as council members will
15 be using that information and seeing that when you evaluate
16 the analysis and proposals from Akiachak for some deferred
17 customary and traditional use proposals that are -- you saw
18 last fall. And they've been deferred a few years, and
19 you'll see them again this winter.

20

21 The community of Akiachak was involved directly and
22 had three individuals from that community were hired to
23 conduct household surveys in the community. Fritz was
24 involved at somewhat earliest meetings up there. A year
25 ago in the fall I went up and met with -- I think the
26 entire community showed up for a community meeting, and
27 Fritz assisted, and we gave an overview of the project and
28 what we were hoping to do together there. George Peter who
29 is the natural resource director for Akiachak was also
30 involved in helping line up people to hire, who would then
31 go house-to-house and do the surveys, and also was very
32 helpful as was Fritz and Willy Kassaily (ph) and Jackson
33 Omak (ph) in identifying key respondents in the community
34 that we could -- that I could get with and lay out maps and
35 ask those individuals to show me areas that they've hunted
36 and fished and trapped. Areas they've used the land for
37 several years. And we did those interviews with seven or
38 eight people, and then we -- key respondents, very
39 knowledgeable people.

40

41 We then compiled that information to large maps.
42 Those maps were four or five feet high, and some of them
43 were eight feet long. Thirteen maps. Very large. We put
44 those up in the community in August, and they stayed up in
45 the community for about a month for hunters to come in and
46 to look at them to see if their hunting and fishing
47 subsistence use areas were on those maps, and the goal was
48 to end up with subsistence land use maps that represented
49 areas used by the community. Again you'll be seeing that
50 information later this winter, and using it at your meeting

1 discussion here to help determine your position proposals
2 for customary and traditional use for Akiachak. So it was
3 a good project. The work now begins to write it up, and
4 that's what I'll be working on between now and the end of
5 December, getting it all written down. The maps will be
6 computerized and digitized and it should be a nice addition
7 to understanding community land use here on the Y-K Delta.

8

9 So I want to thank Fritz and the Community of
10 Akiachak for that, all that support there.

11

12 We were also contacted -- after our meeting in
13 Alakanuk last winter with this council, Jeff Reese from
14 Kuigpagmiut, hearing that we were going to do a project for
15 Akiachak, was very interested in maybe doing something
16 similar for some Kuigpagmiut communities, I think three or
17 four communities possibly. I, Subsistence Division and
18 Fish and Wildlife Subsistence are still talking with
19 Kuigpagmiut about possibly doing something in the future to
20 help gather some subsistence land use information for a few
21 lower Yukon River communities that can help the council
22 here in its deliberations on proposals.

23

24 Currently we are involved in gathering salmon
25 harvest information from subsistence fishermen in the
26 Kuskokwim area. I think those surveys have been done
27 already on the Yukon by Commercial Fisheries Division. I
28 do -- I supervise a project in the Kuskokwim drainage, not
29 just the Y-K Delta, but middle Kuskokwim and all the way up
30 to the top of the Kuskokwim River drainage, McGrath,
31 Nicolai, and those communities, Lime Village, for example.
32 We're doing that now. Staff began that project last week,
33 and that will continue. Gathering the data will continue
34 through late November. And it's something we try to do
35 every year, gather information on subsistence uses.

36

37 We're also involved in a cooperative project in
38 Bethel with the Bethel Tribal Council, ONC Council, there
39 with Mary Kavil and Debbie Lee. They applied for and
40 received some grant money from fisheries disaster monies,
41 and were able to get money to hire two technicians who
42 could help Department of Fish and Game gather data in
43 Bethel, that we will be going, and are now going house-to-
44 house in Bethel asking families about subsistence salmon
45 harvest, just try to get a better handle on the harvest
46 information for that community. We've never done that in
47 Bethel going house to house, so I'm real excited about that
48 project.

49

50 One thing that will be coming up at the Board of

1 Fisheries meeting the end of this month in Fairbanks, the
2 Board is going to have a work session. And one of the
3 things we're going to talk about is an agenda change
4 request that was actually put before the Board of Fisheries
5 two years ago in December, and it dealt with the use of rod
6 and reel for subsistence fishing. That topic and issue is
7 very much alive, and the Board's very interested in it.
8 We'll be providing some background information of what we
9 know in the Subsistence Division about rod and reel use in
10 the Y-K Delta area and AVCP region specifically for
11 subsistence uses here. We'll describe that to the Board,
12 and it's more of an informational meeting. It's possible
13 the Board may take some action on this next spring, but
14 they'll decide that at the Board meeting.

15
16 I think that's all that I have, Mr. Chairman. Oh.
17 One thing I forgot to mention I wanted to touch on as well.
18 There's been quite a bit of talk about beaver here, and
19 last winter this council had a proposal, federal proposal
20 from Emmonak, from Ted Hamilton and that -- the group,
21 tribal council down there to allow liberal bag limits for
22 beaver in Unit 18. And I know the council and the Federal
23 Subsistence Board I believe were interested in waiting
24 until the State Board of Game could take up the same issue,
25 so that if both boards acted, we could end up possibly with
26 the same regulation on both state lands and federal lands,
27 and not have this confusion about different regulations.
28 There is a proposal, and it's proposal I think number 2 in
29 your proposal book, and actually in the state proposal
30 book, and the Board of Game will be looking at that in
31 Barrow the end of this month. The Department supports that
32 proposal with some slight modifications. There's a similar
33 proposal for the Selawik area, Northwest Alaska, and I
34 think what the Department's going to support is longer
35 seasons, more liberal bag limits, so, you know, hopefully
36 by the end of this board meeting you'll see some action by
37 the Board of Game on Beaver to allow people to take them
38 more frequently, and as you look at your beaver proposal
39 that's been deferred, I think it's been deferred, you know,
40 you can work through that this winter, and hopefully the
41 Federal Board can take that up next spring, and by the time
42 we're here next year, you know, this time, we'll have some
43 changes in beaver bag limits and people can have more
44 opportunity to take beaver for subsistence uses.

45
46 So that's all I have. Helen, you wanted to add
47 something?

48
49 MS. ARMSTRONG: Those are under tab I in
50 the book here, if people want to look at them, and they are

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1 on the agenda for us to discuss later on.

2

3 MR. COFFING: Okay. That's all I have, Mr.
4 Chairman. I'll be happy to answer any questions you might
5 have. Thank you.

6

7 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Thank you. Next on our
8 agenda, C., Wildlife Conservation Division, Lower Kuskokwim
9 River Moose Management Planning Effort. (In Yup'ik)

10

11 MR. ANDREW: Phil Perry.

12

13 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Phil Perry.

14

15 MR. PERRY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I'm
16 Phillip Perry. I'm here instead of Roger Seavoy. He's out
17 on Nunavak Island and Nelson Island right now flying musk
18 ox surveys. Just because of scheduling this year, he was
19 not able to come to this advisory meeting. I'll probably
20 be real brief. A lot of what I was going to discuss has
21 been already been discussed by both Michelle Sparck and
22 then Fish and Wildlife Service.

23

24 We do -- a lot of our activities are in cooperation
25 with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, moose surveys, caribou
26 surveys. One thing they didn't mention is moose hunter
27 check stations. Those are also done with -- in cooperation
28 with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

29

30 Here on the agenda it shows me as talking about the
31 Lower Kuskokwim River Moose Management Planning. That's
32 been discussed a little bit. I'll just maybe hit on a few
33 other high points. We do have the potential on the lower
34 part of the Kuskokwim River from basically Kalskag to
35 Bethel, to have much greater moose populations than we do
36 right now. Both areas to the north of us and to the south
37 of us on the Yukon, lower Yukon, which some of you are
38 familiar with, being residents there, the populations have
39 increased dramatically. The Togiak has increased
40 dramatically, and we're very similar in -- both in habitat,
41 potential numbers of moose we can have, and we also are
42 very similar that we have moose populations close to the
43 lower Kuskokwim that are at a high density that are able to
44 immigrate in and affect our population greatly in a very
45 short amount of time.

46

47 The Goodnews and the Kanektok Rivers, too, are
48 somewhat similar to the Togiak River. They're other areas
49 that the moose populations in the future with cooperation
50 of the local people could be much higher than they are now.

1 So just as more as information, to be brought up
2 and to be thought about, we could in the future in lower --
3 near Bethel, near Akiachak, all of those lower villages, we
4 could have moose densities similar to areas like where
5 people on the Yukon go, way up to the Paimuit area, below
6 Holy Cross, we could have densities similar to that or to
7 the Holitna River, very close to where at least a good part
8 of the committee here lives. Something to think about and
9 I assume most people would like to see. So with that, just
10 as a -- more of an information about it, that's really all
11 I had to talk about today. If anybody has any questions,
12 I'd.....

13
14 MR. L. WILDE: I've got one question. Did
15 I see you somewheres last season?

16
17 MR. PERRY: Yes, Lester, you met me at
18 the.....

19
20 MR. L. WILDE: Okay. I thought I placed
21 you.

22
23 MR. PERRY: Okay.

24
25 MR. L. WILDE: Is congratulations in order
26 for your promotion or.....

27
28 MR. PERRY: No, no, I'm.....

29
30 MR. L. WILDE: I'm just kidding.

31
32 MR. COFFING: You could ask him your
33 antlerless moose question.

34
35 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Mary Gregory?

36
37 MS. GREGORY: I am just curious, are you
38 Bruce's son?

39
40 MR. PERRY: No, I'm not. I'm Ron Perry's
41 son.

42
43 MS. GREGORY: Oh, Ron Perry. Yeah. Ron.
44 (In Yup'ik) Thank you for coming back to our area.

45
46 MR. PERRY: Thank you.

47
48 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Thadius Tikiun.

49
50 MR. TIKIUN: Mr. Chairman, I do have one

1 question for you, Phil. You mentioned that the moose
2 population down in this area here could be the same as the
3 Holy Cross area, and the Holitna area. Well, I understand
4 that the Holitna this year, the moose population is down
5 pretty low. Is that true or -- and is there re- -- do you
6 know why, a reason why it was down so low?

7

8 MR. PERRY: I'm not real familiar with what
9 happened up there this year. That's -- I've probably heard
10 some of the same rumors you did. Anecdotal evidence
11 suggests that maybe, yeah there were fewer moose this year,
12 but when you go by hunter harvest, a lot of times those can
13 be influenced more by it was kind of a late fall, the moose
14 weren't into rut late -- until later. Stuff like that can
15 affect perceived numbers. It's hard to tell from sitting
16 in Bethel, and that's way up river and actually most of
17 those -- the aerial surveys and everything is flow from
18 McGrath for that, so I'm not real familiar with that.

19

20 MR. TIKIUN: Okay.

21

22 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: One more question? Or
23 a couple more? Robert Nick?

24

25 MR. NICK: My -- you know, we've talked
26 about lower Kuskokwim, upper Kuskokwim. Where does lower
27 Kuskokwim start, you know?

28

29 MR. PERRY: For what we were thinking with
30 moose, lower Kuskokwim being basically from Kalskag or
31 Lower Kalskag at least to Bethel, maybe as low as say below
32 the Johnson River and somewhere in that area, but that
33 general area. We don't have it really defined.

34

35 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Fritz George?

36

37 MR. GEORGE: Yeah. Quyana, Mr. Chairman.
38 Earlier we -- one of the servicemen, the Fish and Wildlife
39 Service boys told us that they don't have a predator
40 control. Does the Alaska Department of Fish and Game have
41 that, predator control?

42

43 MR. PERRY: It has -- in the past it's been
44 done. Presently there is some wolf control done in the
45 Interior of Alaska on a very limited basis, kind of as an
46 experiment. Politically it's -- a few years ago, I don't
47 know if you remember in the news what all happened with the
48 Department trying to.....

49 MR. GEORGE: Yeah.

50

1 MR. PERRY:do some wolf control.
2 It's something right now that hasn't -- isn't being done on
3 a wide spread basis, and I probably don't see it happening
4 much right now.

5
6 MR. GEORGE: Is there going to be working
7 -- are you going to be sort of like working, like
8 castrating the male moose (sic)?

9
10 MR. PERRY: That's not exactly what's
11 happening in the Interior, but they are -- what they do is
12 take the alpha male the alpha female, which are normally
13 the only two out of the group the -- out of a pack that
14 breed, and they sterilize them, they don't castrate the
15 male, but they sterilize them, and then that wolf pack will
16 not have pups for a few years while both the alpha male and
17 the alpha female are there. So as long as they're
18 guessing, three, four, five years that certain wolf packs
19 won't reproduce. So that's what's being done right now on
20 kind of an experimental basis.

21
22 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: This time, thank you.
23 The next one, we change our appetite a little bit Go down
24 to D, Commercial Fishery Division harvest and population
25 status report. Tom Kron?

26
27 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, members of the
28 Regional Advisory Council, guyana. Thank you for allowing
29 us to meet with you again today. We are here to listen and
30 to learn.

31
32 COURT REPORTER: Excuse me, sir, could you
33 state your name for the record?

34
35 MR. KRON: I'll get to that.

36
37 COURT REPORTER: Sorry.

38
39 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Tom? Let me find, is
40 part of your report to council, Council, you find it in
41 your book at tab F.

42
43 MR. KRON: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We
44 look forward to working with -- working closely with this
45 advisory council as well as the federal agencies on
46 subsistence fisheries issues. My name is Tom Kron. I'm
47 the Arctic/Yukon-Kuskokwim regional supervisor for the
48 Commercial Fisheries Division, and I'm responsible for
49 providing for the subsistence, commercial and personal use
50 fisheries across the AYK region. We've been promoting

1 cooperative fisheries programs with the public and the U.S.
2 Fish and Wildlife Service. We are currently involved in
3 cooperative salmon stock assessment programs here at
4 Quinhagak, with AVCP on the Kwethluk, Aniak, and Pilot
5 Station. We are cooperating on projects with Mountain
6 Village and Emmonak, as well as TCC, the Kuskokwim Native
7 Association, the Nulato Tribal Council, the Bering Sea
8 Fishermen's Association, the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries
9 Association, and other groups. We fund annual subsistence
10 surveys for salmon for the Kuskokwim, the Yukon, Norton
11 Sound and Kotzebue. The work for the Kuskokwim, Norton
12 Sound and Kotzebue are conducted via transfer of funds to
13 the Subsistence Division.

14

15 With me today is Charlie Burkey. Charlie is the
16 area manager for the Kuskokwim area, and is responsible for
17 managing commercial and subsistence fisheries here.
18 Charlie will also be providing summaries for salmon
19 fisheries for the Yukon. The Yukon summer season manager,
20 Dan Bergstrom, has provided Yukon chinook and Yukon summer
21 chum information. The fall season manager, Keith Shultz,
22 has provided the information for fall chums and coho. We
23 have a number of handouts which Charlie will be referring
24 to. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Charlie?

25

26 MR. BERKEY: You just saved me five
27 minutes. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. To repeat, my name is
28 Charlie Berkey, area management biologist, Kuskokwim area.
29 He just saved me five minutes of explaining what I was
30 going to try to do here tonight, so we'll start off, we
31 handed out the handouts.

32

33 I'm going to start off with the Yukon. '99 Yukon
34 area chinook and summer chum sum- -- excuse me, salmon
35 fisheries summary. The main report with the graphs and
36 tables was handed to you, the first thing that came by that
37 was handed out to you. And basically Dan Bergstrom
38 provided this, I'm just going to basically read it for him.
39 '99 Yukon River chinook and summer chum salmon runs
40 continued to exhibit the decline in productivity observed
41 in recent years. Five and fix year old chinook salmon
42 abundance was much less than would be expected based on
43 parent year escapements. Summer chum salmon abundance has
44 been below average to poor since 1997, although parent year
45 escapements were very good from 1994 through '96.

46

47 This is also true for the Kuskokwim, too, and I'll
48 get to that later. Very true for the Kuskokwim.

49

50 Commercial sales of salmon during the summer

1 season, and this is Chinook and summer chum, the total
2 estimated harvest, commercial harvest was 69,483 chinook,
3 and 29,412 summer chum salmon. The 1999 chinook salmon
4 harvest was the third lowest commercial harvest since
5 statehood, and 31 percent below the recent ten-year average
6 harvest of 100,695 chinook. The commercial harvest of
7 chinook salmon was near the low end of the guideline
8 harvest range for all districts and subdistricts. The
9 commercial fishery was managed conservatively by a general
10 reduction in the length of fishing period durations from
11 normal.

12
13 The summer chum salmon harvest was the second
14 lowest since 1968, and 94 percent below the recent ten-year
15 average harvest of 532,815 fish. The summer chum harvest
16 was taken entirely incidental to fishing directed at
17 chinook salmon. There were no directed summer chum salmon
18 periods, because of poor market, poor price, and what have
19 you.

20
21 The lower Yukon fishers received an estimated
22 average price per pound of \$3.80 for chinook, and ten cents
23 a pound for summer chum salmon. The average price for
24 chinook salmon was well above the recent ten-year average
25 of \$2.72 a pound. The ex-vessel value of the lower Yukon
26 area fishery was \$5 million, which was 13 percent below the
27 recent ten-year average of 5.7 million. The average income
28 for lower Yukon area fishers that participated in the 1999
29 fishery was \$7,869.

30
31 Also, about 11,060 coho -- chinook salmon were
32 harvested in the Canadian main stem Yukon aboriginal
33 domestic and commercial fisheries. This harvest was the
34 second lowest since 1979.

35
36 The 1999 preseason outlook was for a weak to below
37 average chinook salmon run, an a below average summer chum
38 salmon run, based on the reduced productivity and poor
39 returns observed in 1998. Chinook and summer chum salmon
40 run timing in '99 was late, due to the presence of ice
41 along the Bering Sea coast, and cold water temperatures
42 during the first half of June. This was also true for
43 Kuskokwim River salmon runs. They were also late, later
44 than normal. The chinook salmon run was below average in
45 abundance, but better than the disastrous return in 1998.

46
47 Age compositioned sampling show that the chinook
48 salmon run was dominated by six-year olds to a higher
49 extent than normal. The percentage of five-year-old
50 chinook salmon was much lower than average, or much lower

1 than it usually is, and combined with lower than average
2 abundance, causes concern regarding a poor outlook -- poor
3 return outlook for year 2000.

4

5 The summer chum salmon run was assessed to be -- as
6 being poor in abundance. Okay.

7

8 The 1999 commercial fishing season opened on June
9 22nd in District I, the lower Kusko- -- lower Yukon River.
10 This was the second latest opening on record. The combined
11 total harvest of 64,215 salmon for District I and II was
12 seven percent below the low end of the guideline harvest
13 ranges above. Well, was seven percent above the low,
14 sorry, low end of the guideline harvest range of 60,000
15 fish, and 31 percent below the 1989 to 1998 average harvest
16 of 92,983 fish. The combined commercial summer chum salmon
17 harvest in District I and II of 27,883 fish, was 88 percent
18 below the recent ten-year average harvest of 240,975 fish.

19

20 Chinook and summer chum salmon escapement goals are
21 based aerial surveys except for the Anvik River summer chum
22 salmon escapement goal, which is a sonar estimate. A
23 number of cooperative escapement monitoring projects were
24 established between '93 and '95. Although the data base
25 for these projects is still quite limited, and no goals set
26 for them, yet comparisons can be made between the current
27 year and the recent five-year average.

28

29 Yukon River chinook salmon abundance in 1999 was
30 assessed as below average based on the commercial harvest
31 and escapement estimates from selected tributaries.
32 Chinook salmon escapement in 1999 ranged from 12 percent to
33 56 percent below the recent five-year average throughout
34 the drainage with minimum escapement goals achieved in only
35 three survey tributaries.

36

37 Preliminary results of the Department of Fisheries
38 and ocean mark and recapture tagging project at the
39 U.S./Canadian border, indicated a total spawning escapement
40 for the Canadian portion of the upper Yukon River drainage
41 of approximately 12,500 chinook salmon. This is 55 percent
42 below the rebuilding step goal of 28,000 chinook salmon,
43 and very disappointing based on in-season run assessment.

44

45 Preliminary post-season analysis of comparative
46 commercial harvest and escapement data indicate the summer
47 chum salmon run as very poor in abundance. No escapements
48 in monitored tributaries met minimum goals or were
49 considered adequate. Results ranged from 40 percent to 89
50 percent below the recent five-year averages. The

1 preliminary Anvik River sonar base escapement estimate of
2 438,000 summer chum salmon was approximately 12 percent
3 below the minimum escapement goals of 500,000, and the
4 fourth lowest since 1979.

5

6 The Anvik River run was much lower than expected
7 based upon parent year escapements of greater than 100 --
8 greater than 1 million fish in 1994 and 1995.

9

10 From there, I'll switch on over to what Keith gave
11 me about the 1999 fall chum salmon management. This is
12 fall chum and coho season later on in that -- later on on
13 the Yukon.

14

15 The 1999 Yukon River fall chum salmon run was
16 managed by following guidelines provided by the Alaska
17 Board of Fisheries Yukon River drainage fall chum salmon
18 management plan. The management plan provides for
19 escapement needs and provides a subsistence priority use
20 prior to considering commercial fishing activities.
21 Because of the unexpected run failures observed in 1997 and
22 1998, there was a high level of uncertainty associated the
23 Yukon River fall chum salmon preseason run projection for
24 1999. Consequently, the '99 Yukon River preseason
25 projection was presented as a range of 550,000 to 1.2
26 million fall chum salmon. 1999 fall chum salmon return had
27 an unusually strong component early in the season, and
28 based on average run timing information, it appeared that
29 the 1999 fall chum salmon return would be large enough,
30 which was more than 670,000 fall chum salmon to support
31 commercial fishing activities. Consequently the 1999 fall
32 season commer -- fall season, commercial salmon season was
33 opened. The first commercial period occurred in the lower
34 Yukon area on August 1, and in the upper Yukon area on
35 August 8th. There were a total of four commercial periods
36 in district Y-1 and three commercial periods in district Y-
37 2 during the fall chum season in 1999. There were no
38 commercial periods in Y-3 for fall chum in '99. No
39 additional commercial fishing periods were allowed in the
40 lower Yukon area after August 12th. The last commercial
41 fishing period in the upper Yukon area occurred on August
42 the 15th.

43

44 The 1999 fall chum salmon run size was estimated to
45 be between 535,000, 634,000 fall chum salmon. This was at
46 the lower end of the preseason -- basically it's the lower
47 end of the preseason projection of 550,000 to 1.2 million.
48 The 1999 fall chum salmon return appears to have been --
49 had a late strong component, indicating the fall chum
50 salmon return would probably be in the upper end of the run

1 size range. Run sizes in the upper end of this range
2 indicate normal subsistence, personal use, and sport
3 fishing activities could occur. However, the majority of
4 Yukon area -- upper Yukon area projects to date indicate a
5 below average return of fall chum salmon, lower than
6 expected. Overall, the 1999 fall chum salmon return
7 appears to have strong components in the early and late
8 portions of the run, with weakness in the middle.

9
10 The poor return of fall chum salmon to the Tanana
11 River was -- has prompted closure of the personal use
12 fishery within the Fairbanks nonsubsistence area.

13
14 The Yukon River coho salmon have a slightly later,
15 but overlapping run timing with that of the fall chum
16 salmon run. The Department follows guidelines of the Yukon
17 River Drainage Coho Management Plan adopted by the Board of
18 Fisheries in 1998. This allows for a directed coho salmon
19 fishery only under very special and unique situations. In
20 these situations, it's highly unlikely they occur in most
21 -- in any given year, and they did not occur this year, so
22 there was no directed -- there was no directed coho salmon
23 fishery on the Yukon River this year.

24
25 Run assessment information indicates that an
26 average coho salmon run with at -- that the coho salmon run
27 was about average in size, but was very late -- had very
28 late run timing, approximately six days later than average.
29 An estimate of the subsistence harvest is not available at
30 this time. That will be made later on, made in January
31 2000 approximately. Okay.

32
33 A total of 200 -- excuse me. A total of 20,371
34 fall chum and 1,601 coho salmon were sold in the Yukon area
35 in 1999. The Yukon area fall chum salmon harvest was only
36 11 percent of the recent 20-year average harvest of 179,395
37 fish. The coho salmon harvest was less than five percent
38 of the recent 20-year average harvest of 37,820 fish. The
39 ex-vessel value of the Yukon area fish sold was
40 approximately \$40,129. This was less than 6 percent of the
41 recent 20-year average. And approximately 257 permit
42 holders participated in this fishery. The average income
43 per permit holder during the fall season was approximately
44 \$156.

45
46 Let's see. Okay. We have just basically
47 preliminary escapement information for fall chum at this
48 time. Where we have -- where we do have -- we do have
49 biological escapement goals for fall chum salmon, they are
50 -- in all cases they are below their biological escapement

1 goals. The assessment of coho salmon is still on-going,
2 but tentative information from the Delta Clearwater River
3 indicates that the escapement goal for coho salmon up there
4 will probably be -- possibly be -- probably, excuse me, be
5 achieved.

6

7 That's about all I have for -- that's all I have
8 for the Yukon commercial fishery for this season, and if
9 anybody has any questions, hopefully Tom will be able to
10 take care of them.

11

12 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: (Indiscernible)

13

14 MR. BERKEY: I'll give you a break, let
15 everybody talk about the Yukon, and then I'll talk about
16 the Kuskokwim, and then we'll talk about the Kuskokwim.

17

18 MR. THOMPSON: What is the escapement.....

19

20 COURT REPORTER: Just a second.

21

22 MR. THOMPSON: Oh. What is the catch on
23 the first opening of this year at lower Yukon?

24

25 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, Johnny, the catch
26 information for districts I and II is on page eight of the
27 summer season report in front of you. The first period on
28 June 22nd in District I, six hours in length, 368
29 fishermen, a total of 11,176 chinook salmon, 6,764 chum
30 salmon. But again the information for all of the District
31 Y-1, and two and three catches is on page eight of the
32 report for you to look at. Thank you, Mr. Chairman?

33

34 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Maybe now we're going
35 to go into Kuskokwim area? Yeah.

36

37 MR. NICK: Charley, that was the fastest
38 summation of a written information from you. I had a hard
39 time keeping up with you, and I have to put my pages now,
40 as you jump from here to there. I guess, you know, we'll
41 all read -- I'll read it when I have the later information
42 that you're providing here, but these are important
43 information, and I think a little more detailed reports,
44 you know, is expected. You know, I'm just wondering, you
45 know, how for the poor working group, you know, if they are
46 given the information at the same pace, they must be
47 baffled and dazzled.

48

49 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, again, we can slow
50 down. We can spend more time on this. You know, we

1 understand again that you'll be looking at fisheries from
2 here on out, and we weren't sure how much time to spend.
3 Both Charlie and I will be here tonight and tomorrow
4 morning, early afternoon, so if you have questions, please
5 ask. And again we can provide a more detailed report on
6 these issues in the future for you. Thank you.

7

8 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Yeah, we're going into
9 now the Kuskokwim area. We targeting ourselves 11:00 for
10 recess, so I think you have a time for Kuskokwim.

11

12 MR. BERKEY: Thank you, Mr. Chairman.
13 Yeah, since the Kuskokwim is my responsibility, I
14 definitely know a lot more about it and can spend a lot
15 more time on it. I think me spending a lot of time on the
16 Yukon would be a disservice, because I'm not -- I don't
17 know that much about the Yukon where I can spend a lot of
18 time on it. So we'll go back -- I'll go to the Kusk -- but
19 I apologize. I was told to keep it short, and it's not my
20 territory or my expertise, so -- but we can spend as much
21 time as you want to on it.

22

23 Okay. This report will cover the Kuskokwim area
24 salmon fisheries. This is an oral summary of the report
25 that's found I think it was under tab F I believe in your
26 booklet, and it's entitled preliminary 1999 Kuskokwim Area
27 Commercial Salmon Fishery Summary. And there's going to be
28 a little bit more detail in there than I'm going to present
29 here orally, so at your leisure, it's there, as is the
30 information from the Yukon is -- was passed out to you
31 also. More detailed information. I'll give you a -- in
32 this report I'll give you a geographic description area,
33 and then a summary of the 1999 Kuskokwim area commercial
34 salmon fishery.

35

36 As Tom said earlier, the Division of Commercial
37 Fisheries, the Department of Fish and Game, is responsible
38 for the management of the commercial and subsistence
39 fisheries in Kuskokwim area. And our over-all goal is to
40 -- of our management program is to manage the salmon run
41 for sustained yield under the policies set forth by the
42 Alaska Board of Fisheries. The Alaska State Legislature
43 and the Alaska Board of Fisheries have designated
44 subsistence fishing as the highest priority among
45 beneficial users of the resource. Management of the
46 Kuskokwim area, it takes a conservative approach in order
47 to maintain the subsistence priority and to provide for
48 spawning area escapements to sustain production of the
49 resource. Sustained yield.

50

1 The Kuskokwim area includes the Kuskokwim River
2 drainage all waters that flow into the Bering Sea from Cape
3 Newenham down -- and up to the Naskanat (ph) Peninsula,
4 which is just a little bit north of Nelson Island.
5 Commercial salmon fishing takes place in four districts.
6 District four is the lower Kuskokwim, it's 146 miles long
7 from approximately Eek up to just above Tuluksak. District
8 W-2 stretches for another 50 miles along the Kuskokwim
9 River from about eight miles below Kalskag up to
10 Chuathbaluk. District four is Quinhagak, is the marine
11 waters out in front of Quinhagak here, and district five is
12 the waters inside of Goodnews Bay.

13
14 Subsistence -- as I said earlier, subsistence users
15 have the priority use for fish in the Kuskokwim area, of
16 all fish resource. Customary subsistence salmon fishery is
17 a large and important fishery with over 1300 families
18 participating in it. Subsistence catches of chinook salmon
19 in the Kuskokwim River, they're -- normally exceed the
20 commercial catch. Quite often they're two to three times
21 the commercial catch. The subsistence catches of the other
22 species, chums, sockeye and coho salmon are quite -- a much
23 smaller fraction of the normal commercial harvest, although
24 they are important subsistence species also.

25
26 The 1999 fishery, commercial fishery this year, the
27 first commercial fishing period in the Kuskokwim area
28 occurred in district W-4, Quinhagak on the 21st of June.
29 This is much later than normal. What occurred was, was
30 subsistence fishermen in Quinhagak were reporting poor
31 catches earlier -- early in the season, earlier in the
32 year, and they requested that we postpone the opening of
33 the commercial fishery until the subsistence catches
34 started picking up. And we did that. And normally we
35 would open by June the 15th, but this year because of the
36 late and slow development of the chinook salmon run, we
37 opened on the 21st of June. The fishery in the Kuskokwim
38 area closes by regulation on the 8th of September.

39
40 604 permit holders, a total of 604 permit holders
41 took 25,019 chinook salmon, 81,201 sockeye salmon, 32,251
42 coho salmon, two pink salmon, and 72,659 chum salmon. This
43 was for the commercial fishery. This was the lowest number
44 of permits, this 604 permits was the lowest number of
45 permits fished in the Kuskokwim area since 1972. You have
46 to go back all the way to 1972 to have as -- to see as few
47 fishermen participating in this commercial fishery. The
48 below average harvest, we had below average harvest for all
49 species, and that was due primarily to low catches in the
50 commercial fishery, and the limited -- and limited fishing

1 time in the districts, in all districts. There were only
2 two commercial fishing periods in the Kuskokwim River in
3 1999, and this is well below -- the recent ten-year average
4 for the number of commercial periods is 15, so it's well
5 below that.

6

7 Due to the late run timing and poor salmon run
8 strength, the first period in the Kuskokwim River was on
9 June the 30th. This is the latest first period on record.
10 In the last ten years, the average first period has been
11 approximately the 20th or the 21st of June. There were
12 only 19 commercial periods in the Quinhagak and Goodnews
13 Bay districts. This compares to the normal number of
14 commercial periods for Quinhagak in the last ten years has
15 been 32 on average, and for Goodnews Bay has been 27 on
16 average. The opening dates of these fisheries, both these
17 fisheries were also later than they normally were.
18 Commercial catches during the periods, during all these
19 periods on the Kuskokwim were at record low levels for
20 their dates, whereas on the Goodnews and Quinhagak, these
21 catches were some of the lowest on record, and some record
22 lows and some near record low catches.

23

24 As I mentioned earlier, run timing, the run timing
25 of the salmon on the Kuskokwim River was late, later than
26 normal. Compared to the average run timing from 1984 to
27 1998, the king salmon run was six days later than normal,
28 the sockeye run was eight days later than normal. The chum
29 salmon run was 11 days later than normal, and the coho
30 salmon run was six days later than normal. This is quite
31 striking, the lateness of the run, but it's similar to what
32 was seen up on the Yukon, primarily -- we believe that the
33 primary cause was cold ocean conditions, late spring, late
34 ice out -- late ice melt out. Late breakup.

35

36 The Kuskokwim area, total Kuskokwim area chinook
37 salmon catch was 51 percent below the most recent ten-year
38 average of 50,900. The price per pound for chinook on the
39 Kuskokwim was 32 cents a pound. This is well below the
40 average of 51 percent -- cents a pound for the last ten
41 years. The sockeye salmon catch was 50 percent below
42 average, or half average, of 161,000. And fishermen were
43 paid 58 cents a pound for the chinook -- sockeye -- or for
44 sockeye, and that's well below the average of 71 cents a
45 pound. The coho salmon catch was only 5 percent of the
46 average of 600,729, a very -- a dismally poor coho salmon
47 catch this season. The price was 30 cents a pound, it was
48 67 percent of the average price of 45 cents a pound. Pink
49 salmon was well below the odd-year average. Chum salmon
50 catch was 82 percent below the average of 406,170, and the

1 price was ten cents a pound, which is the lowest since
2 1972, and less than half of the average price of 23 cents a
3 pound. Overall, Kuskokwim area permit holders, they
4 received \$551,725 ex-vessel for their catch. This is 86
5 percent below the previous ten year average of \$3.8
6 million. And the average permit holder made just a little
7 over \$900, which is well below the ten-year average per
8 permit holder of almost \$4800, \$4,800.

9
10 To sum it up over all, the 1999 Kuskokwim River
11 salmon runs were among the poorest on record. The total
12 returns of chum and coho salmon to the Kuskokwim drainage
13 were very weak, and that was evidenced by record low
14 commercial catches, and record low catches per unit effort
15 in the test fisheries. Now, the Aniak River sonar count,
16 and the Kugrugluk (ph) River weir count of chum salmon were
17 28 percent and 54 percent below their respective escapement
18 objectives. The chinook salmon escapement was
19 approximately just barely over half of the escapement
20 objective for the Kugrugluk River. Daily chum, coho and
21 chinook salmon passage at the Kwethluk, George, and
22 Tuluksak River escapement projects were generally very low
23 to average when compared to previous years data. Because
24 of the extremely poor chum and coho salmon run strength,
25 commercial fishing time was limited, and resulting in chum
26 and coho salmon catches of only seven and five percent of
27 the recent ten-year averages. This was on the Kuskokwim
28 River.

29
30 That concludes the summary of the commercial
31 fishery. I would entertain any questions. Thank you.

32
33 MR. L. WILDE: I've got one question. What
34 did the processor with those two pink salmon that were
35 caught?

36
37 MR. BERKEY: They never said. Maybe
38 barbecue, I don't know.

39
40 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Robert Nick?

41
42 MR. NICK: Charlie, a professional educated
43 guess on what happened to the fish?

44
45 MR. BERKEY: Educated guess, good phrase.
46 Basically there's a lot of evidence, we've had extremely
47 poor survival of salmon, both chum and coho salmon for the
48 last three years, since 1997. This has been very
49 unexpected based on the good -- what was felt to have been
50 good parent year escapements. In other words, during the

1 years when these fish were born, the escapements were felt
2 to be adequate to good for chum and coho salmon both for
3 the most part, except for the '93 chum returns were very
4 poor, so the '97 was not all that out of -- '97 chum return
5 was not all unexpected.

6

7 The best evidence we have right now is that there
8 appears to be a big -- what's called either a regime shift
9 is one of the terms used. It's a change in the environment
10 in the Pacific, North Pacific Ocean. A lot of scientific
11 evidence have been gathered over the last couple years,
12 pointing to some very dramatic changes in the ocean
13 ecosystem, especially North Pacific and Bering Sea. A lot
14 of the -- some of the most educated guesses or hypothesis
15 right now point to poor survival of fish in the ocean,
16 because of the changes in the weather and the temperatures
17 and the other different physical factors in the ocean. A
18 lot of the fish returning are very small, which indicates
19 they're not very well fed. We've got sores and sick fish
20 and things like that coming back. This all points to poor
21 ocean conditions. So basically it appears that the parent
22 years that spawn these fish that returned the last three
23 years weren't that bad in most cases. With the evidence
24 showing dramatic changes in the ocean environment and the
25 size of the returning fish and their condition factor and
26 their health of these -- a lot of these fish returning, it
27 appears in a lot of these cases that it's an ocean
28 environment problem, which is also seen in, you know,
29 Norton Sound, Yukon-Kuskokwim, was seen in Bristol Bay for
30 two years in a row there, and other places as well. And
31 that's my best information I can give you, and our best
32 educated guess. Thank you.

33

34 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Robert Nick? (In
35 Yup'ik) Go ahead.

36

37 MR. NICK: No blame whatsoever on the
38 intercept by-catch, catches out in the donut hole, Bering
39 Sea, Unimak Pass? Beyond the Chain?

40

41 MR. KRON: Looks like I get the hot
42 question here. We know that chum salmon bound to the
43 Kuskokwim and the Yukon area, parts north, Norton Sound,
44 Kotzebue, are taken in the False Pass fishery. We believe
45 that they would also probably be taken in the Bering Sea
46 trawl fishery. The Board of Fisheries has taken actions to
47 change the management plan at False Pass here the past
48 several years. I've made presentations along with Yukon
49 River Drainage Fisheries Association, to the North Pacific
50 Council in '94 for the chum salmon, and last fall for king

1 salmon. They, too, have responded with changes in the
2 management of the trawl fishery, so a number of these
3 different management agencies, North Pacific Fisheries
4 Management Council, the Board of Fishery, have been making
5 adjustments out there. Again I think there's a recognition
6 that some of these fish are taken in those fisheries.

7
8 The collapses in runs that we've seen across this
9 whole region have been sizeable. You know, we've seen
10 very, very significant changes in productivity, changes in
11 run size, and I guess my guess is that we've got something
12 fairly major going on. No doubt these fisheries in these
13 other areas are having an impact, but I think the
14 indicators point to something larger. We know that we've
15 had big changes in the food availability out in the North
16 Pacific. A number of the people here from the Yukon that
17 participated in the panel process a year ago December, we
18 saw huge blooms of what's called a cocolythafore (ph) that
19 turns the Bering Sea white. A hundred mile long blooms of
20 an organism that was blocking out light, you know, right
21 off the mouth of the Yukon, off the mouth of the Kuskokwim,
22 off Norton Sound. So again it looks like there's big
23 changes going on in the environment. But again these other
24 fisheries that you mentioned are taking fish bound for this
25 area as well. Thank you.

26
27 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Bill McCann?

28
29 MR. McCANN: Yeah. (In Yup'ik)

30
31 INTERPRETER: Billy McCann was going to ask
32 the same question John was going to ask. I'm thinking in
33 False Pass, the fish they arrive in the False Pass, fish
34 for Kuskokwim and Yukon, they pass through that, and the
35 fishermen there, it's their fault. If they could report
36 what they catch, there's managers down there, and it's --
37 we know what's going on. There's less fish in our area.
38 They're blaming the ocean, but part of it is False Pass
39 fisheries. They should be able to tell since the False
40 Pass is the passage way for this, Goodnews, Quinhagak, and
41 how the commercial fishing areas in the Kuskokwim and Yukon
42 area. How the fish pass through False Pass. I'm thinking
43 they should be able to monitor the fish. If we know how
44 much -- how many fish their catching, we should -- they
45 should be able to let us know. That should be a good way
46 to inform us of how many fish are being intercepted.
47 They're trying to solve this problem, and wants to know the
48 catch of the False Pass fisheries, want them to inform,
49 make sure and inform our fisheries in our area. We are in
50 the spawning area of their fish.

1 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, Mr. McCann, this
2 summer the chum salmon cap for the Shumagin Island, Unimak
3 Pass June fishery, the fishery that's known as the False
4 Pass fishery, took -- the cap was from 350,000 to 400,000
5 chum salmon. The catch in False Pass area was 242,551 chum
6 salmon.

7
8 MR. McCANN: Have you got copy of that?

9
10 MR. KRON: We can provide a copy of this,
11 yes.

12
13 MR. McCANN: Okay.

14
15 MR. KRON: For coho salmon, the commercial
16 catch was approximately 150,000 coho salmon, which again
17 for -- in their case was below their average, which is
18 173,000 coho salmon. So those are the numbers, and we can
19 provide the information to you. And again this is the
20 information that came in from the staff out there. Thank
21 you.

22
23 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: John Hanson?

24
25 MR. HANSON: Yeah, thank you, Mr. Chairman.
26 I wasn't going to say anything, but I guess I ended up
27 clobbering Tom and Charlie here. Well, Tom, could you get
28 for our next meeting of the regional council here, the
29 catch of cohos in Shelikof Strait? That's where the fall
30 chums and cohos for AYK go through. They come in with Cook
31 Inlet sockeye, and when they reach the Baranofs, the cohos
32 and fall chums separate from the Cook Inlet sockeye that
33 are bound for AYK. While they're going behind -- into
34 Shelikof Straits, Kodiak fishermen slaughter them. You're
35 wondering how I know it?

36
37 MR. KRON: No, I'm not wondering, I know
38 how you know.

39
40 MR. HANSON: That is when they get to False
41 Pass, which we call Area M, False Pass/Unimak, they get
42 slaughtered again. That's how come Kuskokwim has not many
43 cohos left, their fall chums are not many. Yukon the same
44 way. Norton Sound is worse, because they're got a small
45 salmon, what do you call it, quota? Those are all wiped
46 out. For 15 years now they haven't rebounded in Norton
47 Sound. So if you could get us how much Kodiak fishermen
48 catch on coho and fall chums, I think that would be real
49 good for us to look at. Because once Kuskokwim loses their
50 cohos, the Yukon, we know exactly where they get

1 slaughtered. Besides the Kodiak fishermen slaughtering
2 them, and Area M which we call slaughtering them, the
3 trawlers out there, which is the CDQ, they're also taking
4 cohos, sockeye, fall chums, chums, king salmon, and then
5 they just waste it away. The North Pacific Council with
6 the help of this Yukon River Fishermen's Drainage
7 Association, they cut the quota, their by-catch, give them
8 the by-catch of 40,000 chinook and I don't know how many
9 cohos and chums, but that 40,000 chinook is just like a
10 drop in the bucket. They can catch more than 40,000. And
11 then -- I forgot what I was going to say here. Besides the
12 chinooks, pretty soon we're going to have no more chinooks
13 go into Kuskokwim, the Yukon, and the Norton Sound are
14 Elim, Golovin, Nome. I think there has to be something
15 done. And then the False Pass has a sliding quota on
16 chums. They can catch 700,000. Who knows? With their 300
17 to 700, that's a sliding scale, which is terrible.

18
19 MR. KRON: Mr. Chairman, Mr. Hanson, it's
20 my understanding at your next meeting you'd like to know
21 what the -- basically the chum and coho catches are on the
22 north side of Kodiak and Afognak areas, and the southside
23 of the Alaska Peninsula through the Shelikof Straits area,
24 is that correct?

25
26 MR. HANSON: Give us not just the number,
27 for (indiscernible) numbers on coho and fall chums that go
28 through the Shelikof Straits, not Afognak Island. Afognak
29 never touch cohos that are bound for the Yukon, just
30 Shelikof Straits, that's where all the fishermen from
31 Kodiak move over into Shelikof Straits, and then they
32 slaughter. When I was on the Fish Board with Robin, we
33 closed that off, and then three years later they opened it
34 again.

35
36 CHAIRMAN H. WILDE: Thank you, Fisheries,
37 giving us a report. I was going to try to go to sport
38 fishing tonight, but I think it's getting too late now. I
39 try to -- we sleep on it until tomorrow morning, 8:30 in
40 the morning, we will again -- after we have recess, we will
41 start 8:30 in the morning.

42
43 (Off record)
44 (TO BE CONTINUED)

1 C E R T I F I C A T E

2 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)

3) ss.

4 STATE OF ALASKA)

5 I, Joseph P. Kolasinski, Notary Public in and for
6 the State of Alaska and Owner of Computer Matrix, do hereby
7 certify:

8 THAT the foregoing pages numbered 45 through 197
9 contain a full, true and correct Transcript of VOLUME II,
10 YUKON-KUSKOKWIM DELTA FEDERAL SUBSISTENCE REGIONAL COUNCIL
11 PUBLIC MEETING, taken electronically by David Haynes on the
12 13th day of October, 1999, beginning at the hour of 9:00
13 o'clock a.m. at the Bingo Hall, Quinhagak, Alaska;

14 THAT the transcript is a true and correct
15 transcript requested to be transcribed and thereafter
16 transcribed by under my direction to the best of my
17 knowledge and ability;

18 THAT I am not an employee, attorney, or party
19 interested in any way in this action.

20 DATED at Anchorage, Alaska, this 4th day of
21 November, 1999.

22

23

24

25

Joseph P. Kolasinski
Notary Public in and for Alaska
My Commission Expires: 4/17/00